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JUDr. Michal HAŠEK, the Governor of the South Moravian Region
Bc. Roman Onderka, MBA, the Mayor of the City of Brno



EURORURAL '14

**EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE
WITHIN THE POST- INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY**

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Papers

Can abandoned farmlands be important habitat for biodiversity in rural areas?

Adamczyk Jolanta¹, Majchrowska Anna²

As a result of economic transformations in Poland in the last two decades, agricultural activity has ceased in many places of the country and large areas of former farmland have been abandoned. Many possible perspectives for defining agricultural abandonment are thoroughly reviewed by Pointereau et al. (2008). In Polish language, the term usually refers to arable lands left without agricultural management for several years (Flis 1985). Adequate definitions for hay meadows and pastures, where mowing or grazing stopped, are lacking, although long lasting withdrawal of those management treatments has a similar result, this is overgrowing with bushes and trees (Krysiak 2011).

Agricultural landscapes can be described by a matrix-patch-corridor (network) model (Marshall 2002). Intensely-managed fields form matrix, with unfavourable conditions for retaining biodiversity. Corridors and patches are made up of field margins, road verges, watercourses, woodlots, ponds and abandoned fields, which are able to retain vegetation cover due to autonomous ecological processes. Those habitats can be refuges for many groups of organisms in agricultural landscapes (Czarnecka 2011), therefore they catch naturalists' attention. Plant surveys demonstrate that spontaneously regrowing forests on abandoned farmlands contain more species than artificial monocultures of coniferous trees (Ratyńska 2002). It is assumed that abandoned agricultural lands are important habitats for nature protection since they contribute to the increase in biodiversity in agricultural landscapes and enhance landscape mosaic structure.

The aim of the study is to describe ecological role of abandoned farmland in buffer zones around protected areas in the Łódź Province, in central Poland.

Field survey was carried out in 2012 and 2013 in 10 km wide buffer zones of seven landscape (or regional) parks: Bolimów, Międzyrzecze Warty i Widawki, Przedbórz, Załęcze, Sulejów, Spała, Wzniesienia Łódzkie Landscape Parks. Seven belt transects were delineated in areas of high level of farmland abandonment, and each transect included 5-6 plots (100 m x 100 m). The plots of high level of abandoned land were chosen by field verification of the data derived from orthophotographs (from 2009). Each plot was located with GPS. At each plot soil was sampled for chemical analysis and vegetation inventory was carried out.

There have been five main structural types of vegetation communities distinguished in the studied areas of abandoned farmland. The first type of abandoned farmland communities includes lichen communities with *Cladonia* and small admixtures of grasses. The second type consists of one or two grass species. The third type comprises richer communities, with numerous meadow, forest and grassland plant species. The fourth type includes floristically poor phytocoenoses, with dominating *Hieracium pilosella*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Achillea millefolium* species. Within the types 3 and 4, the habitats that contain trees (mainly pines and birches) should be recognized as separate variants. The fifth type contains phytocoenoses dominated by *Solidago canadensis*. Basing on the analyses of the vegetation of the abandoned farmland it is assumed that the following vegetation types have important ecological role: 1) abandoned farmlands with lichens, as they serve as refugium for this group of organisms (at least for some time) 2) abandoned lands with large number of plant species as they serve as habitat for numerous organisms 3) abandoned farmlands with trees as they can form natural corridors (or patches), and suggest the vegetation succession towards forest communities, which is important for increase of biodiversity of agricultural areas.

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Evaluation of the rurality in İzmir metropolitan areas after launching of the new jurisdiction, “complete city law”

Akpınar Figen , Başaran Gökçe

At the turn of the 1980s, Turkey's economic policy went through a radical transformation by adopting new liberal economy based on exports versus the import substitution policy that was exercised after the 1960s which created a strong domestic market and a regulated economy, i.e. national developmentalism. During the 1980s, liberalisation and privatisation policies led to the withdrawal of the public subvention mechanism to the agricultural sector that caused rapid immigration to the urban areas and abandonment of the agricultural land. Globalization and economic transitions have caused dramatic changes both in spatial and demographic configuration, and, internal structure of large metropolitan cities. Rural areas at the vicinity of the metropolitan cities are affected the most adversely as the consequences of the attempts to transform the public sector to the private interest that often took place under the pretend of the public interest, has encouraged the expansion and suburbanization on the newly appropriated rural and natural areas.

On the other hand the continuous attacks of the economic crisis have made the scene worse for the Turkish society where limited redistribution mechanism and lack of welfare state intervention resulted in extreme poverty in general and in rural areas in particular which provoked the daily discussions in the political arena. Under all these circumstances and changes, the use of rural space and the management of natural resources in Turkey, is of utmost importance because of the rapid transformations and change occurring in rural areas in the post-industrial era. Decay in rural areas has already a widely known phenomenon however it has exacerbated by the winds of globalization. Rural areas are declining in population, causing land to be abandoned. Individuals have become isolated without adequate social services. Residents often face poverty and social conflict as well as the environmental degradation, soil erosion, and water degradation. Within these circumstances, transformations, this study tries to provide an integrated perspective on the situation about the rural areas in the İzmir Metropolitan Area Development. Attention is drawn to the relationship between the planning and local dynamics. The discussion tries to find out ways in which coordinated development planning and management of rural areas and natural resources can underpin sustainable rural livelihood.

Having witnessed 8,500 years of human history, İzmir is one of the oldest port cities of the world. She had been founded at the side of a gulf, and currently is the third biggest city and the second most important seaport of Turkey. The total population of the Greater İzmir Municipality is 4.005.459, whereas urban areas contains 91 per cent and rural areas (villages and provinces) has remained at 9 per cent. However with the introduction of the new jurisdiction this profile has changed completely and the population living in the limits of the İzmir Provincial areas is now considered as the urban population. The 597 villages and 53 provincial municipality are abolished and joined the Greater İzmir Municipalities boundary.

The Law of 6360 (The Law of Establishment of 13 Greater Municipality and 26 Districts) enacted in March 2013 has been the turning point both in the Municipal Administrative Structure in Turkey and the administration of the rural areas which are at the vicinity of the metropolitan cities of the country. The Law has extended the city boundaries along with the provincial areas including villages and mid-size provincial districts found in the metropolitan areas. This enlargement has been accompanied with the centralization of the jurisdiction under the central city administration. The law abolished all the villages' rural status and converted them to the ordinary neighborhood of the central metropolitan city.

Before the Law, the responsible public body for the administration of the rural areas was the “Province Special Administration” (İl Özel İdaresi) in accord to the Law number 5302 enacted in 2005. The jurisdiction according to the Law, was composed of the areas which was not under the jurisdiction of the Greater Municipality Area. The Province Special Area Administration was the responsible body of vast rural areas composed of many villages, provinces at the vicinity of the Greater Metropolitan Areas. The preparation of the Master Plans, public works, conservation of land, prevention of the erosion, culture, art, tourism, social works, poverty aids, micro-credit to the poor, and various services, were amongst the responsibilities of the Province Administration. The autonomous administrative and financial public body was created to meet the various collective services of the province's population

and its decision board was composed of the members selected by the local voters. The province governor (vali) who attained by the existing government was the coordinator of the approval of the Master Plan with the selected "Province General Council" (İl Genel Meclisi). This Law has been criticized heavily because of the dominance in the decision making by the city in part of the majority of the (rural) population who do not know adequately the problems of the urban areas, necessities and not to be aware of the infrastructure programme and planning.

All these changes indicate that the priorities are switched to the urban areas. Before the Law, each "village" had its own juristic status and the "mukhtar", head of the village selected by local villagers was responsible managing the common goods of the village. The villagers are now in charge of paying urban taxes. The grazing and pasture lands are affected negatively and livestock suffer deeply. The change in land prices after losing the "rural land" status may cause to decrease in the agricultural production and put demand on rural landscape causing abandonment and land degradation.

Although the jurisdiction of the Greater Town Municipalities has been extended, the authority and decision making process are concentrated heavily on the hands of the Town administration. It is not clear that how this centralization of the authority and decision making process affects the planning process to overcome the internal inconsistencies and local variation of the rural areas. The need to bottom-up planning initiated locally that proceeds through the active participation of the community seems to be a difficult task to achieve under the single and powerful central Town Administration.

This study can be considered as an attempt to explain the way rural communities have changed from the recent transformation of the jurisdiction to the current situation of greater diversity and fragmentation in the countryside. The objective is twofold: (1) to define rurality in the Greater Izmir Municipality by employing rural index in order to conceptualise idiosyncratic character and then (2) to discuss the possible effects of the new jurisdiction on the rural areas in the planning process. In the study it is expected that globalization is heavily influential in the configuration of the rural areas and in the planning. For the statistical explanation, a series of economic indicators is employed for measuring the direction and magnitude of the transformations by employing the Province Special's "Land Use Classification Inventory", and "Census of the Population of the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) 2012", SIS's "Regional Development Indicators 2008", "Izmir Institute of Technology Rural Areas Settlement and Housing Inventory 2012".

Key words: rurality, rural index, urban-rural interaction, spatial planning with respect to the rural areas

Old and new factors of development of the countryside between two Russian capitals

Borodina Tatiana³

The purpose of this study is to examine and evaluate the role of the territory adjacent to transport corridor (railroad and highway) between two Russian capitals - Moscow and St. Petersburg. Since 18th century both cities have developed as main centers of Russia. In the 18th century the capitals were connected by the road for cartages, passing through the ancient Russian cities Novgorod and Tver. Empress Catherine II built on this route Travelling Palaces (about 20) and there were a lot of estates of Russian nobles. Trade and crafts developed in towns and villages. Construction in the mid-19th century of the first Russian railway gave a new impetus to development of this area. Industry began to develop very quickly, especially such as textiles, glass, porcelain production, wood processing, vehicle repair and railway services, peat extraction. As soil is not fertile, in the countryside in the 19th century such phenomenon as "otkhodnichestvo" (seasonal migration of rural population to big cities, especially to Moscow and St. Petersburg, for work) began to develop. Since the late 19th century such thing as "dacha" – summer habitation of urban residents in the countryside began to spread, not only in the suburbs of St. Petersburg and Moscow, but also in more distant from the capitals scenic areas, for example in the little town Valday in Novgorod region.

Advancing development of two largest Russian cities leads to sharp polarization and fragmentation of the territory and concentration of population and economy with considerable social consequences. We see, on the one hand, rapid development of two Russian capitals, and on the other hand – sharp depopulation and degradation of rural areas of the regions located between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Main factors of development of this territory now are: investment attractiveness of the Moscow and St. Petersburg agglomerations, related to their administrative and political status, economic power and demographic potential of two Russian capitals, strengthening of agglomerative processes, recreational potential of Moscow, Tver, Novgorod and Leningrad oblasts and development of transport infrastructure.

Boundaries of the impact of these agglomerations are constantly expanding, their attractiveness to migrants increases. As the distance from two capitals grows, rates and scales of economic activity gradually fade, and population density of the territory sharply decreases.

Over recent decades capital regions repeatedly strengthened their roles of the large transport and transit, trade and service, information and communication, administrative and managerial centers. In modern conditions transport connectivity is becoming one of key factors in development of the territory. Nevertheless even the introduction of modern means of transport has negative consequences. Opening in 2009 of movement of the high-speed Sapsan train between Moscow and St. Petersburg led to the cancellation of many local passenger trains and reduction of amount of freight transportation. As a result the accessibility of many small settlements in Tver and Novgorod oblasts sharply decreased, while traffic of the freight transport on the highway sharply increased. Throughput capabilities of the old highway is almost exhausted, cars stand in huge traffic jams.

Intensity of agriculture in this territory sharply decreased in recent years, many farmlands are neglected, though there are some successful examples of large agricultural enterprises. Many enterprises of old traditional industries such as textile and glass industry, are closed, while the attractiveness of the territory for new investment and innovation projects depends primarily on proximity to the Moscow and St. Petersburg agglomeration. As territory near these agglomerations has been filled, inflow of investments to the neighboring regions of the Tver oblast (from Moscow) and Novgorod oblast (from Petersburg) increases, thus expanding the boundaries of agglomeration. The role of recreational resources as a factor of development grows in many rural areas of Tver and Novgorod oblasts with attractive environment and good transport accessibility: the number of summer residents ("dachniki") far exceeds the number of permanent rural residents. Implementation of new transport infrastructure projects, especially the construction of the new highway Moscow-St. Petersburg has to give a new impetus to development of this territory.

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Transition of peripheral rural areas—implications for the spatial planning system in Bulgaria

Burov Angel⁴

The dynamics of landscape change at the peripheral rural regions of Bulgaria are valuable field of study in terms of social-ecological systems resilience. The report focuses on peripheral rural areas part of Yuzhen tsentralen region, predominantly situated in the Rodopi mountains with their transition paths in a century long historical and futures perspective. More specific attention is given to the last and the subsequent quarters. Two case studies are thoroughly reviewed in a comparative framework for evaluation of conflicts, landscape transformations and adaptive cycles.

Power asymmetries at these peripheries are exacerbating the regime shifts at certain extremes and intertwining cumulative effects are challenging the rationale of established land use practices. The pace of changing political agenda, economic restructuring and demographic crisis have had significant impacts upon the natural and cultural landscapes in the region for the last 25 years.

There is pressing need for development of a complex multi-level and multi-agent approach to the rural peripheries from the side of spatial planning. The long absence of relevant explorations and actual spatial planning documents as well as recent changes in legislation related to regional development, environmental protection, resource use, sectorial management and spatial planning instruments provide ground for estimation of their compatibility in terms of process and content. It is time for fine-tuning of these many instruments along with adopting them to emerging cultural shifts.

In regard to the necessary adaptive co-management of rural peripheries for the next 25 years, the spatial planning system and its inherent practice could have important mediating position. In the context of multi-level and multi-agent governance the spatial planning system with some adjustments could contribute to:

a) the production of combined endo - and exogenous development and protection frameworks; b) the establishment of broad action research networking, and c) the provision of cooperative learning environment. The significance of value-oriented socio-spatial networks and creative approaches to rural regeneration and land stewardship could grow if real life experimentation receives more institutional support.

As final setting in the report Regional Spatial Observation Networks in Southeast Europe (RESPON-SE) are proposed as part of the institutional and innovation capacity building in the field of spatial planning. Some arrangements are mentioned in relation to peripheral rural areas and topics are proposed as possible targeted research and development, such as: i) landscape change and multiple scales observation; ii) closed loops and transitional communities self-evaluation; iii) creative persistence and socio-spatial networks integration; iv) low demand and flexible services adaptation; v) technology and open source application; etc.

The paper is partially based on analysis undertaken within a university research project (UACEG, contract BN 147/2013)

Key words: transition, resilience, spatial planning, peripheral rural areas, landscape

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Local development in the periphery of Mürzer Oberland (Styria)

*Fischer Wolfgang*⁵

The Austrian county Styria is characterized by the booming urban and suburban agglomeration Graz as the second largest city in Austria, the more or less population stabile or slightly decreasing pre-alpine region in the Southeast similar to inner-alpine main valleys of the river Mur or Mürz and the very alpine regions with a strong development of depopulation.

It is not only the question how strong depopulation processes are but also why this development is becoming stronger. Why are regional development strategies not working sufficiently? Of course there are some positive developments but in general the scenarios show decreasing figures of population and economy.

In the very Northeast of Styria someone can find the region Mürzer Oberland. It consists of four municipalities which are recently (2014) in the process of fusion. In future these four municipalities will form a new unit in form of one single municipality.

Beside this process of fusion among the four municipalities a successful local development project called "laboratory of nature" had been established. It is a project that had been developed during a practical course run by the University of Graz (Department of Geography and Regional Sciences) involving partner universities from Graz and Vienna. The concept reflects on both outdoor studying for students from different universities, high schools, schools etc. and common research by the involved institutions. The head office is situated in the former primary school that had been closed because of the lack of pupils in summer 2012. During the last decade around 100 primary schools had been closed in rural areas in Styria. In the project municipality also the only grocery and the only inn was short before closing.

Meanwhile the project "laboratory of nature" not only brings young people into the region but also plays a certain role within the above mentioned process of fusion of the four municipalities. It had been recognized as a project with a higher potential in regard to economic and social impacts.

The paper in hand deals with both the question of advantages of bigger administrative units and its process of fusion in rural areas and the role of local projects with certain regional importance. The focus lies on mutual influences of these two processes and the role of involved actors. Out of that research work findings can be listed and provide for similar processes in rural regions. This research work contents integrative systemic approaches and shows a modern way of geographic research work.

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Visions and attitudes of farmers towards future landscape changes in the context of demographic issues, health and quality of life

Gantar Damjana⁶

Landscape changes in rural areas are of great concern predominately to people who maintain the landscape – farmers, apart from decision makers and spatial planners. To assess their visions and attitudes on changes, a scenario was prepared to forecast the future development of two local communities in western part of Slovenia, where majority of the land is owned and managed by farmers. For this reason all farmers from the test area were invited to a survey, half of the sample was exposed to the land use scenario prepared in advance and other half (the control group) was asked to prepare their own scenarios. The differences between the two groups, assessed by statistical analysis, highlights that scenario use has influence on the temporal perception of future changes in landscape, however there are other factors, such as personal characteristics, occupation, farm size and orientation that have a significant influence on the perception of landscape changes and on the vision of future actions.

By focusing on potential changes and on the processes that drive these changes, landscape scenarios help to enable communication and enhance public participation. Main aim of the research was to establish the role land use scenarios have in participatory process, namely in altering attitudes and actions of stakeholders regarding the known landscape. The research (Gantar, 2009) proved the impact of scenarios on attitudes and, to a lesser degree, on intended actions. The research indirectly revealed many interesting facts including the impact of various factors on the perception of the landscape and especially the landscape changes.

Main methodological instrument of the research was the application of prospective scenario to demonstrate the future changes of the test area, namely two local communities in western Slovenia, a relatively homogenous area, with predominant land uses forestry, farming and to a lesser extent, settlement. Majority of the land is owned and maintained by farmers, the sample included 135 farm owners (and all the farms) in the area. It was important for the research to involve stakeholders that actually live and work in the landscape. The calculations of land use changes along with information from municipal development programmes and other relevant policies were presented in the form of a written scenario and photomontages. The sample size of the farmers was sufficient for the quantitative analysis of the results supported by the use of statistical programmes.

The main intention of the research was to establish the influence of scenario. The hypothesis that scenarios have an impact on attitudes and, to a smaller degree, on intended actions was verified by research results. The scenarios influence and strengthen positive attitude, especially if these attitudes are changeable and not fixed. We can conclude with certainty that scenarios have an influence on the temporal perception of future changes in space and attitudes connected to that perception. But intended actions seem to be more fixed, being based on more concrete factors that cannot be changed by the isolated use of scenarios.

Second important output consists in scenarios written by stakeholders, the control group of farmers and the group of decision makers. There were 67 scenarios prepared by farmers and 8 by decision makers. The stakeholders were encouraged to write about changes they expect would happen in 15 years. Scenarios written by farmers were quite diverse, although all scenarios mentioned the forest overgrowth, which seems to be an important issue in the area.

Views of individuals who live or work in the test area are interesting because they reflect certain beliefs about the future. The survey showed a fairly uniformed view on the development of cultural landscape in the test area, an expectation of further overgrowth, the spread of industrial zone and settlements. Views of the participating farmers are to some extent consistent with the scenario that has been prepared in advance using the Markov chain method in which the future changes and processes are based on the consistency of temporal and spatial processes with the laws of probability (Gantar, 2009b).

Based on scenarios, written by participating farmers and especially on the survey answers which express their plans for the future actions regarding landscape it could be concluded that there are no major or

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crucial alterations from the current state of landscape or land use patterns expected. However, the research also brought observations that farmers, as a significant group of residents, tend to be rather conservative in their assumptions on future development. They expressed a rather strong importance of development factors associated with negative consequences, such as: pests (*Melolontha melolontha*, *Ips typographus*), reduction of subsidies, climate changes. The majority of farmers (61%) perceive as their most important role in the landscape the prevention of forest overgrowth/maintenance of agricultural land, as for 9% of farmers allow the forest growth in remote areas or change their fields to grassland. Only small part of farmers (4%) impact the landscape with other interventions, such as building, melioration, regulation of (forest) roads. Measures which are most relevant for farmers include improvement of infrastructure and roads, followed by favorable financial instruments, more effective spatial planning and elimination of administrative barriers. Farmers were also questioned about their future plans for changing the areas of specific land use. Most answers reflect the reluctance to change, interesting is the increase of built up areas (16% of farmers), decrease of areas with forest overgrowth (24%) and the opposite, increase of forest overgrowth (18%). Majority: 58% of farmers do not foresee any changes. Above presented is only a short summary of findings, which reflect the farmers view on landscape changes and their active or passive role in this process. Their attitudes bring important knowledge helpful for landscape planning and other projects that benefit from public participation.

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Development of rural municipalities in the north and in the South of the European part of Russia

*Glezer Olga*⁷

The present-day municipal structure in Russia started to form after the passage in 2003 of the federal law "On the general principles of local self-government". Due to lack of self-government tradition in the country many elements of this institution were copied from European experience. However, it has been done without scrupulous consideration of demographic and settlement pattern features which in Russia are considerably different to ones of European countries.

According to the law, a unified system of territorial structure of local self-government was introduced all over the country. Municipalities refer to two levels – higher one is a municipal district and lower one is a municipal settlement. There are two kinds of municipal settlements – urban and rural. Rural municipality may include not only one village but several nearby small villages, usually with less than one thousand residents in each. Formation of municipal structure itself (according to general principles) lies within the regional (i.e. of federal subjects) jurisdiction.

There are currently more than 133,600 villages in Russia. In the Soviet period they were combined into more than 24,200 administrative units. Now there are less than 19,000 rural municipalities, so the discrepancy between longstanding political division and introduced new municipal structure is large. The analysis of all of 83 regional municipal structures has shown that more than a half of them are far from adequate to the features of settlement pattern of a given territory. In the north and central regions of the European part of Russia (especially in the Non-Black Soil Zone) two, three, and sometimes ten or even more rural administrative units were integrated into one municipal unit. The process is going on, now municipalities themselves are being integrated. As a result, territory of some rural municipal settlements stretches for more than one thousand square kilometers and municipalities do not refer to the real interconnections between different villages and central places within the territory.

The problem can't be easily solved. On the one hand, small municipalities really have too weak economics and will become much smaller in size because of ongoing depopulation. On the other hand, local authorities have neither information, nor resources for simultaneous work on matters of dozens of villages which continue suffering from economic and/or social depression. As a result, municipal units which have been integrated in order to increase their effectiveness, prove to be ineffective, because they do not rely on the existing settlement pattern and local communities. In reality there is very large proportion of small villages in Russia (50% of them have 11–200 residents and 25% – even less) and very sparse network of villages in the north, so the existence of small municipalities is inevitable.

In the south regions of the European part of Russia situation is quite different. In Krasnodar and Stavropol regions and in the steppe territories of the North Caucasus 35% of rural settlements have 2000–5000 residents and 47% – over 5000 residents. The majority of rural municipal settlements has growing agriculture and service sector and can provide the residents social and economic welfare. Population is characterized by natural increase, though rather small, and positive net migration. Municipalities are densely populated. The process of consolidation of municipalities is not going in the south regions, in contrast to the north ones.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that ten years was enough for a system of local self-government to become the powerful institution with a significant influence on local development and settlement system. In the centre and north of the European part of Russia municipal structure tends to centralize and municipalities with depopulation and scarce local budgets face many problems. In the south, there are human and economic resources for real self-governance.

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Revaluation of palatial and farm unit in Łomnica and its influence on the cultural landscape of the countryside

Gubańska Renata, Gubański Janusz, Burdziński Jacek⁸

Former estates are not only remainders of preserved fortunes but above all they are an underrated heritage. They have influenced rural composition quite a lot being a part of cultural landscape of the village they were in.

In the past, in Lower-Silesia (in the Jeleniogorska Valley) around 30 exceptional palatial and park units were created alongside with farm infrastructure. They were designed mostly by well known, contemporary architects. Unique landscapes were created by picturesque manor parks which were often imperceptibly linked to nearby forests of Rudawy Janowickie and the Karkonosze Mountains.

The palatial and farm unit in Łomnica is one of the objects appertaining to the Valley of Palaces and Gardens in the Jeleniogorska Valley.



Łomnica – a part of the farm yard (fot. R. Gubańska, 2010)

Luckily, despite its substantial devastation it was sold to a new owner. After renovating cubage objects and doing revaluation of park stands and communication system, it gained a new holiday and catering function which met the needs of local residents and tourists.

The article presented the example of a good revaluation and a contemporary adaptation of the earlier mentioned palatial and farm unit in Łomnica which is a present-day instance of a successful reviving of former residential and farm units (by restating their function).

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Role of local partnership in sustainable rural development: some constraints and perspectives of the community based development approaches in Czech Republic

Khendriche Trhlínová Zuzana⁹, Ahneová Irena¹⁰

Actual development theoretical discourse focuses more and more attention to the role of the social networks and partnership in the dynamism of local and regional development. Evolution and changes of the government structures, reorganisation of institutions on global, national and regional levels, global economic and social change as well as the change of the needs and instruments of public policy changed the development context of rural regions. The concept of partnership dominates the discussion about local and regional development and partnership is considered as an integral part of the inclusive and sustainable development and grown. Partnership became important in the strengthening of the local and regional capacities in the term of the adaptation of the rural areas to the new social and economic environment and challenges.

Need of the new alternative development strategies and approaches for localities and regions, including partnership context, is integrated in EU's Common Agricultural Policy as well as in European Regional Policy. Special attention is paid to the projects and investments that can develop the possibilities to bring the people together (local authorities, farmers, NGO, associations etc.) and to work together on concrete and innovative solutions in term of the sustainable rural development. Support of the Local Action Groups, Operational Groups, Community Lead Local Development approaches (CLLD) etc. is orientated to the networks development, communication promotion, social and cultural capital development, knowledge dissemination and other development activities facilitation.

Czech communes and regions participate on European rural development programmes and projects mostly since 2004. Application of European principles still clashes with some consequences of the political, economic and social development during the totalitarian regime and complicated economic, social and cultural relations in some rural regions and communes as a result of this period (lost of the local identity, migration, land property changes, environment and others). Local initiatives and partnerships, that were developed in Western countries naturally, are sometimes adopted in rural communities pragmatically, top-down and without long-term inclusive approaches.

The main aim of the paper is to present how the partnership approaches are implemented in the development of rural areas in Czech Republic. It deals with the evaluation of actual rural development policies and presents the possible initiatives to be made to encourage the rural development and local partnership.

The paper performs some perspectives and obstacles of the EU partnership principles application in Czech Republic. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the Local Actions Groups and their contributions and limits in the support of the rural development. The role and activities of the Local Actions Groups are showed at some case studies from the rural regions in Central Bohemia Region, South Bohemian Region and Plzen Region.

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Development experiences in local space – case studies of peripheral rural areas in Hungary

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The definition and delimitation of rural areas, rural restructuring and rural differentiation have been in the focus of scientific debates for decades. Many argue that even the definition and exact spatial delimitation of the rural areas are problematic, while others still emphasize the necessity of exact definitions. The OECD and the countries of the European Union are committed to preserve rural values and improve rural life quality, which underlines the actuality of theoretical questions about rurality. In this light, rural studies are not only examining theoretical and methodological problems, but their results have practical use for spatial planning, regional and local policy making too, thus contributing to the improvement of rural life quality.

The primary aim of this study is to give an overview of the dilemmas of defining rurality, to present a classification of the Hungarian rural areas and to describe the processes taking place in the different rural area types.

In 2013, the authors participated in the rural research program “Hungarian rural areas in the European space – differentiation and types of rural micro-regions”, conducted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Hungarian National Rural Network. With the consideration of some novel aspects, a new method was developed for the classification of the Hungarian rural micro-regions called járás. For the comparative analysis of the newly formed types of rural micro-regions, the available statistical data and local documents were used, and with the participation of local stakeholders, case studies were prepared. Eight micro-regions were selected for further empirical research involving fieldwork, and the characteristics, development needs and development experiences of the selected micro-regions were examined in detail. After this, a detailed picture could be drawn about the common rural problems and the frequently experienced obstacles of rural development.

The research project also had important findings for the stagnating or lagging peripheral micro-regions. They share a lot of similarity in their characteristics and development possibilities, with big inner differences in their economic and social conditions on settlement level. Their attempts to break out of underdevelopment scarcely led to success, mostly when charismatic local leaders were not only trying to attract investors, but were able to strengthen the local community, form partnerships and think on micro-regional level. There is small chance for such kind of development in peripheral micro-regions and small villages with poor availability. In these settlements, investments carried out by outsiders and foreigners are often seen as uncertain and temporary, but development based on local resources also failed to produce breakthrough. Rural tourism, for example, still plays a smaller role in local economy than expected. Although good practices can be found in a few settlements, it is far from enough for breaking out of their underdeveloped state. In most cases, the investments were resource and time consuming, yet only slightly increased the micro-regions' income.

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Rurality and static essentialism

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From the inception of sociology, and Ferdinand Tonnies' development of the concepts *Gemeinschaft* and *Gesellschaft*, there has been an urban/ rural dichotomy with urban and rural sociology being sub-disciplines of sociology. The value of this dichotomy has been frequently questioned. Many scholars are highly critical of traditional approaches that treat rural (and urban) as a single undifferentiated entity. Boundaries have become blurred, spatial flows are different, and people often live in one place and work in the other.

Despite this academic realization of the changed nature of space and binary categories, we argue that rural lobby groups rely on a notion of 'static essentialism' that maintains a view of rural groups as unchanging and disadvantaged. 'Rural' is the static, unchanging element that renders groups disadvantaged. We argue this does not reflect social reality. The article explores this question examining two groups defined by rural lobby groups as disadvantaged; women and migrants. Two different data sets, both drawn from Northern Ireland, are used to explore this question. Our case study raises global questions about how our understanding of rurality in 2014 is constructed, and the power struggles inherent in social constructions of space.

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Water as Integrating Factor of Sustainable Rural Development in Poland

Mosiej Józef¹⁴

According to the rules of sustainable development actions protecting and managing, in complex way, environment of rural areas, should be taken under consideration in special planning and not violate the requirements of environmental protection. In this concept of rural management, the water factor is perhaps the most important one. Water has different areas of use such as **productive** in agriculture and forestry, **social** e.g. tourism and recreation and **ecological**, notably habitat protection. Limited access to water can cause friction in the agricultural landscape and a shortage or surplus of water can affect biodiversity, especially in water-reliant ecosystems. In addition to its productive (production of biomass) functions, water in the agricultural landscape plays different roles such as:

- Management of habitat conditions (soils, microclimate)
- Transport of chemical substances (solvent and substances carrier) and energy (changes in states of aggregation of water connected with heat absorption or emission)
- Aesthetic values of landscape management
- Management of conditions for biodiversity protection (small reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, marshes and extensively used, reclaimed grasslands in watersheds)
- Absorption, reception and reduction of anthropogenic threats caused by agriculture and habitation.

As regards the economic and ecological function of water in a given area, the decisive factor is not its absolute amount but the time during which this water is taking part in different processes, in other words, the time that water spends in the landscape. This time is dependent on the degree of surface cover by flora and fauna, and on the time it takes for rainfall water to reach rivers .

The role of water in spatial management cannot be viewed separately from economic, social and ecological functions of rural areas or without the context of the agricultural policy of state and regional authorities. It is also important to consider the conditions caused by existing ventures from the field of drainage and water engineering, supporting the economic needs of agriculture; and spatial management plans for habitats in rural areas .

During last few years' noticeable change of the way of thinking took place considering management of water resources. Water was shown as "restricted and sensitive resource, essential for sustaining of life, development and environment". While Water Framework Directive implemented a definition that shows water specify as a resource: "water is not a product as any other but is a hereditary good that has to be protected and treated as this". As a consequence of this approach some priorities of water management has to be set to subordinate water economy to sustainable development rules which cause changes in rules and techniques of water resources management.. In place of aim oriented on usage and supplying of water for satisfying different parts of economy – the aim of sustainable usage and protection of not only water itself but also water ecosystems and water reliable ecosystems. As a basis of water resources management integrated approach was taken, placed in natural, social and economical properties of water resources and connected to them environment.

Plant production and forestry are the greatest water consumers in Poland. Riverine outflow equals less than 30% of precipitation. More than 40% of precipitation is used by agriculture production and 25% by forestry. Small area of irrigated crops does not mean little water consumption. Actually, over 5% of riverine flow is taken up by industry and communal users. Most of this water, however, in a form treated sewage returns to the water cycle in contrast to the water taken up by vegetation, which is as a whole turned into water vapor. It is clearly seen that agriculture and water demands of plants in general (including forests) play a significant role in water cycle in nature. Therefore the agriculture water resources are a key factor in implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The assessment of water management in the area of three communes on the base of chosen local indicators of environmental, social and economic conditions and assign individual criteria and their estimates as a case study will be presented. On the base of the evaluation it is possible easy to identify

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strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of analyzed territorial units in range of rural water management. For determination of reasons and results the deterioration of water quality and its preventions on analyzed area three components domain P-S-R was used. Indicators are divided functional on three groups of indicators pressure or reasons (P); indicators of state or conditions (S), indicators of reactions or preventive operations relatively to pressure or reasons (R).

“When a small village turns into a city”: how tourism affects young adults’ perceptions of and affective bonds to a rural community

Möller Peter¹⁵

Many rural areas, in Sweden and worldwide, experience population decline where the young leave for education and work in urban areas. Employment has declined in several rural industries, such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, while growing in other industries are often located in urban areas. Politicians and organizations have put much hope in tourism as a tool of rural development, but this is not undisputed since tourism employment is often seasonal, low in status, and low paid, raising questions about whether it can provide adequate livelihoods. Other reported obstacles are economic leakages from the tourism area, uneven distribution of revenues, and the risk of mono-development in one industry. Extensive research examines the social and economic impacts of tourism on communities, but how tourism affects places’ specific conditions for and attractiveness to young adult inhabitants is less examined.

This paper explores how tourism affects young inhabitants’ perceptions of and affective bonds to a rural area in Sweden, the ski resort area of Sälen. The focus has been place perceptions, mobility, and social relationships in Sälen during the inhabitants’ childhood, youth, and adult transition. Students from the 1993–1995 elementary school graduating classes were interviewed about their migration history, childhood, and view of and ties to Sälen. These graduation classes were chosen because most of these respondents were expected to have recently passed their young adult ages and established themselves as adults.

The Sälen area is located in Dalarna County in Sweden, a roughly five-hour car journey from Stockholm, and is one of the biggest in Sweden in terms of turnover. The area is more or less completely dependent on tourism. Approximately 1700 permanent inhabitants live in Sälen and the surrounding villages, plus almost 2000 seasonal workers each season and more than an estimated 50,000 tourists per week in peak season.

The respondents experience that tourism contributes to a more vital community incorporating influences from elsewhere, but without eliminating the positive aspects of rural life, and could be defined as a mixed landscape where both rural and urban influences are apparent. This mixed landscape is not static but changes with the tourism seasons, and differs between precise geographical locations in the Sälen area.

Several respondents emphasized the importance of meeting new and diverse people, some of whom they got to know well, some who became acquaintances, and others whom they never met again. The regular flow of people – tourists, seasonal workers, and entrepreneurs – passing through Sälen presents opportunities to create important weak social ties and extend one’s social network that are widely appreciated by respondents. The high in and out mobility constitutes a key part of Sälen’s character. The inhabitants can easily leave Sälen but unlike in many other rural areas, they also have good opportunities to return and relatively easily get a job in Sälen, especially in high season.

Contributions from tourism – such as employment, entertainment, leisure, and opportunities to forge new social relationships – are available during the adult transition, the life phase when rural areas are often perceived as least attractive. Even though out-migration occurs in Sälen, and some respondents still find Sälen too small, tourism has clearly increased the available opportunities and contributed significantly to making Sälen more attractive to young adults.

Keywords: Sweden, young adults, tourism, rural development, out-migration, interviews

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Industrial and post-industrial regional transformations–some Nordic examples

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Prevailing regional development theories have problems handling Nordic development trajectories. In the paper, social equality and relative dispersed population in regional development patterns are claimed to be an important part of functioning Nordic transformations from poor to rich societies. Clearly these traits of social organizing are not in accordance with important regional development theories.

In the paper Richard Floridas widespread theory of the importance of the urban creative class is regarded as a version of traditional growth – pole theories. The precondition for innovation, growth and prosperity in the post-industrial phase shall be wealthy and innovative urban elites in city environments transforming science based knowledge and creative ideas to new types of products and services. In the “Knowledge Economy” the driving force in development are radical innovations transforming societies in a Schumpeterian manner. According to Floridas theory, radical city-based innovations will be basis for regional and national developments. Similar to a main contention in growth pole theory, economic development are initiated in larger centers, and will – eventually – diffuse in geographical space, that also might include smaller centers that innovative elites regard as attractive.

Contrary to the version of growth-pole theory launched by Richard Florida, the Nordic countries have maintained relative social equality during and after industrialization periods. And as a general rule, Nordic countries have been as innovative as for instance USA and Great Britain. In these two countries, large social inequalities and class differences are claimed to be consequences of development towards late modern and prosperous societies.

Most striking, however, is the maintenance of a dispersed population pattern in some Nordic countries and regions under modernization. In the paper it is claimed that dispersed use of natural resources in different industries and widespread usufruct rights have empowered rural societies in Nordic countries like Denmark, Norway and Finland. Thus Nordic development experiences seem to falsify universal theories claiming connection between city development, social inequality on the one side and functioning transformation on the other.

In the paper I will go into some regional development processes in two Nordic countries, Denmark and Norway. The intention is to illustrate transforming development trajectories that are based on a relative dispersed population and social equality.

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Influence of industry on changes in rural settlements on example of the ironworks in municipality of Zenica

Nurković Rahman¹⁷

The purpose of this paper is to point to some elements of correlations and influences of industrial production on changes in rural settlements and utilisation of cultivable land, as well as on intensity and structure of industrial production, all on example of the Ironworks in municipality of Zenica. Considering the significance of industrialisation for development of our country and importance of secondary activities in general, particularly in last two decades, it is clear that geographers seek to learn these processes, either within the specialised industrial geography or in other branches of geography. With regard to availability of data, most attention has been paid to problems and influence of industry in rural settlements in municipality of Zenica. In addition, some characteristics of the new activities development in period 1991-2014 were underlined in this paper. The causes of industry crisis in municipality of Zenica cannot be analysed separately, but only in their correlation and interrelatedness. Research of these problems should contribute to new economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the European Union. However, if we want to reach the targeted parameters (it is already clear that this will take longer than the planner wished), during the realisation more attention should be paid to removal of negative effects shown in previous development of the 'Ironworks' in municipality of Zenica. This relates to, first of all, unequal spatial development of industry, which resulted in numerous economic and social problems in municipality of Zenica.

Transition, respectively the processes of restructuring the industry and society, as a whole, in Bosnia and Herzegovina are developing very intensively, but also under the significantly deteriorated and special conditions. Standard transition package, applied more or less in most of the postcommunist countries, was completed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in accordance with the principles of neoclassical economic ideology. By transition from postcommunist to market economy system, Bosnia and Herzegovina uses its significant natural-geographic, traffic and demographic advantages.

Key words: industrial production, *rural development*, settlements, Zenica

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The Importance of Rural Women as part of the Population and Labour in Turkey

Oğuz Cennet¹⁸

The social, cultural and economic development of a society primarily hinges on equality of opportunities that each member of the society has. To ensure an effective and balanced growth of society it is essential that all members have equal access to opportunities. In other words, in social works for development, a gender balanced approach should be adopted.

Making up half of the population, women who occupy an essential position within the scope of development programs should be examined independently. Men and women are naturally different hence they have different abilities. They perform well in different areas of endeavour. Family labour often used to meet labour requirements. This is especially true in the areas of sustainability agricultural production and rural development. Agricultural enterprises in developing countries are usually run as family businesses, they rely on family labour. Thus, women help their husbands at work and work actively in agriculture.

Women comprise of 44% of the agricultural labour force worldwide and 54.73% of labour in Turkey. The population of women working actively in agricultural enterprises is growing annually and most of this growth remains as "Unpaid family worker" On the other hand, it is revealed in various studies that needed attention is not given to women in projects and programs carried out within the scope of rural development. Organizations dedicated to women in agriculture exist in most places in the World, and it is essential that such studies are carried out in Turkey, as well. In the latest study conducted it was found that it is very important for the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock to include studies devoted to women and adopting an integrated approach to agriculture. For example; in 9 regions of Turkey, workshops were organized to educate and train rural women in improved agricultural methods and techniques. This will increase their existing potential; create awareness by bringing together partners who work in this field. It will also come out with proper solutions, strategies and policies to address this developmental challenge. Inequality in gender in Turkey compared to other developing countries is still high at 0.366.

Regardless of the level of development, agriculture plays an important role and special attention is given to agriculture in all the World Economies. As in Turkey, in a country where roughly 26% of the population works in agriculture, agriculture is still the main industry with cross-industry relations, safety and assurance of food in terms of employment. Thus, in economic development, it is impossible to assume that agriculture could be ignored. In the agricultural sector, the household labour of women which is voluntary and invisible socially remains as the main source of inequality and puts women at a disadvantage compared to men in benefiting from educational opportunities starting from childhood, attaining productive resources, participating in revenue generating workshops, acquiring a profession and having an academic career.

The key role that women play in agricultural production has been overlooked for many years, and more emphasis is given on the projects aimed at market oriented production in market economy in development plans and programs. Especially in the year 1983, a discussion had been started on the issue of the importance of women in the agricultural sector. In developing countries such as Turkey, the condition, status, accessibility of public service to women especially in rural areas draw attention substantially. Especially in recent years, The Ministry Agriculture and The Ministry of Public Education conduct projects associated with receiving education and acquiring skills aimed at women in rural areas and organize workshops. Furthermore, many studies are done over roles of women in agricultural production at local and regional levels. The population of the economically active working group in rural areas in Turkey is 7,710,000 individuals. Women comprise of 54.73 per cent of this number. The population of working women in agricultural activities actively shows an increase year after year. Nevertheless, the percentage of women in the active population plummets. At this point, the condition and importance of the population of women in agricultural activities and rural development are on the rise.

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The percentage of women in the active agricultural population economically in the World is 42.86%. 20 percent of the agricultural businesses in the U.S.A. are managed by women. The businesses managed by women are the small businesses in the world. The number of business women has showed an increase of 1% in the last ten years in the world. 29% of the businesses in Austria and 24% of businesses in Italy are managed by women. The share of the agricultural population of Turkey within the total population is gradually decreasing as a result of the economic development and rapid urbanization.

Key words: Rural women, Labour force, Turkey

Cultural heritage of small towns as potential for economic development of region

Pawlak Anna¹⁹

The region of south of Poland has great potential for developing touristic-rest facilities. There is an currently area with exceptional natural attributes. This is a great natural potential which should be viewed as an important input in to the European nature and cultural heritage. In spite of many values of natural environment there is a lack of the proper arrangement of those areas as well as tourist infrastructure and rules of environment protection.



The cultural and landscape values of the area of south of Poland needs not only protection but suitable forming and planning to avoid the disturbance of existing values. Protected area possesses as well historical values as the source of future economic activities for the innovative forms of rest (as an example famous Loara Valley in France or Ren Valley in Germany). Therefore, the most essential matter for small towns possessing valuable relic of traditional building and objects, is to contribute the separate development programme increasing the individual character of every town.

In many national regions particularly in the south of Poland there are areas which do not profit their potential for development. There are areas with a variety of qualities and potential possibilities for increasing their activation. On the other hand increased activation can make different spatial conflicts what needs interdisciplinary planning studies carried out in various scales. Making use of unique features of historical small towns without any coordination may bring overuse and overinvestment what provoke the destruction of unique values.

Nowadays the small towns see their future in development of tourist-rest function based on preserved nature and culture values with their special unrepeated special spirit. The historical and artistic values with

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emotional feelings of relic complexes can make the fundamental role in activities and impel of the development of the whole region. Work describes urban complexes in small towns situated in the south of Poland area where there are preserved values of great rank which some of them are written on the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Land consolidation in Czechia. Perception versus reality

Podhrázská Jana, Vaishar Antonín, Toman František, Knotek Jaroslav, Ševelová Miloslava, Stonawská Kateřina, Vasyľchenko Alona²⁰

The problem of land consolidation in Europe has more than one century long tradition. Besides of general problems which are solved in the West, the post-communist countries of central and Eastern Europe have to take into account the period when the land ownership was separated from the land management. This more than 40-year period caused an interruption of the relation of the owners to the soil. Especially the young generation lost the feeling of farmers who managed the land in a sustainable way. People who restituted a land as inheritors of original owners often have speculative intentions. They are interested in leasing or selling the land for the highest price not taking into account the sustainability. It creates a special social milieu also in the sphere of land consolidation.

The land consolidation in Czechia is directed on a remedy of the consequences of the past period (namely creation of large plots, disposal of scattered vegetation, opening of fields to the water and wind erosion and similar), a renewal of the personal relation of the people to the soil and landscape with regard to the public interest. The access to the plots for their owners is within the practical goals of land consolidation. A renewal of neglected landscape belongs to other aims, similarly as soil, water and biota protection. The renewal and digitalization of the evidence of real estates is the main by-product of the land consolidation.

A survey research is the main method of the study. The questionnaire is directed to following issues: motivations for land consolidation, personal experience of respondents, perception of benefits and negative by-products, personal relation of respondents to the land and landscape, perception of the landscape protection, values of the localities. Following groups of respondents were addressed: representatives of local administration (mostly mayors of rural municipalities), land owners (farmers and representatives of legal entities in agriculture) and other participants, e.g. representatives of churches. Three groups of municipalities were selected: communes with completed land consolidation process (having experience with course and results), communes with semi-finished land consolidation (having experience with its course) and communes with planned land consolidation (with little or no experience). The municipalities selected are dispersed in all administrative regions of the Czech Republic. Different landscape types were taken into account: lowlands, hilly lands, suburban zones, borderland and inner periphery.

The questionnaire was realized in a digital form. The respondents were addressed by electronic mail. Such a way of the questionnaire limits the respondents to the persons who are friendly to use digital methods. It may discourage especially senior farmers with low education and exclude the persons without the internet access (according to the last population census 2011, the access to internet was 56.6 % of households). These limitations are taken into account within the evaluation of the questionnaire results.

Preliminary results are based on 72 individual respondents and 33 answers from bigger enterprises. Men with the university education prevail among respondents of both groups. The majority of respondents is elder than 50 years.

The majority of respondents agree that land consolidation bring both positive and negative consequences. The difference is seen in the fact that land consolidation is perceived as preliminary negative by 21% of enterprises and only 4% of individuals. The main positive impact of land consolidation is seen in the arrangement of the ownership (69 % of individuals and 82 % of enterprises), followed with making the landscape passable (56 and 30%). Ecological impacts are not perceived as substantial. Main problems are connected with time delays and big administration. Nevertheless, 75% of individuals and 67% of enterprises consider the land consolidation for suitable.

Of the individual respondents, 74% farm their soil, 47% lease it (some of them partly farm, partly lease) and in 3% the land lies fallow. The enterprises farm 18% their own soil and 82% of the leased land. Diametrical differences between individuals and enterprises can be found in opinions about restoring the field limits (agree 74% of individuals but only 21% of enterprises) and about shrinking the field tracks (agree 69% of

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individuals but only 9% of enterprises). It seems that the representatives of enterprises prefer economic criteria whereas the individuals take into account also some extra-economic ones (ecology, aesthetic of the landscape etc.). The individuals are convinced that agricultural and forestry enterprises take care about the development of the municipality in 39% of cases only.

Key words: land consolidation, perception, Czechia

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The rural and its legitimacy in the post-socialist public discourse

Pospěch Pavel²¹

This paper starts with a question: Why is it that the rural is perceived as a legitimate recipient of public concern and state support? The answer lies in the values that the rural represents or that are ascribed to it. These values are embedded in the discourses of the rural: the ways the rural is conceived, addressed and understood. This paper addresses the discourse of the rural in the Czech Republic in the period between 1989 (the Velvet revolution) and 2004 (the EU accession). Between the central planning of the Communist regime, ending in 1989 and the EU standardisation, starting before 2004, there was a “discursive no man's land”, where discourses of the rural were at once devoid of the plans of the Communist government, and not yet adjusted to the “western” standards of the EU and the CAP. How, in this period, was the rural established as an issue deserving public discussion? How did its discursive position change under the influence of structural factors? What arguments were used to support state intervention in favour of the rural and what were the sources of its legitimacy? These are the questions answered in this paper.

The paper uses a qualitative research design, employing the techniques of content analysis and discourse analysis. The analysis is based on a research of written resources published in Czechoslovakia/the Czech Republic in the period between 1985 and 1999. The results show that the ways the rural has been justified as an issue worthy of public discussion and potential state intervention, have changed substantially over the 15 years. The structural factors, mostly connected to agriculture, played a key part in redefining the function of the rural. The function of the rural refers to (a) a way the rural is ascribed an important role in the expert discourse and (b) a ground for the state to intervene in favour of the rural. In the 1985-1989 expert discourse, the rural was only rarely addressed separately from agriculture, which was seen as a key function of the rural. After the collapse of the regime, the agricultural sector started shrinking rapidly both in production and in workforce. This was reflected on the level of the expert discourse where the rural lost its key function. This loss was reflected in looking for new functions of the rural. The importance of agriculture has fallen rapidly, yet the figure of function has prevailed. The position of the rural in the expert discourse was to be legitimised through other values.

The new functions pertained, on the one hand, to the use of rural land and the replacement of agricultural production by other activities connected with recreation, environmentalism, cultural heritage, sports, etc. On the other hand, it also meant defining the meaning of the rural within the expert discourse anew. This was achieved through two figures. First, the rural was defined negatively against the modern, urban world. The function of the rural, the reason for its discursive being, and also the reason for possible state intervention, was seen as lying in the preservation of these alternative, anti-modern values. Clearly, this view included a strong representation of rural idyll, referring to positive social values, sense of community and a rural culture which must be protected by the state. Second, the rural was represented through the figure of rural renewal. While the content of this representation is similar to the previous one, its distinctive origin is different. Rural renewal was defined negatively against the perceived damages of the past, the damages inflicted by the totalitarian regime. It was the struggle in the name of the rural which has “survived a holocaust” (quotation from the data). For the 1990s political representation this presented an opportunity for rectification and also for distancing itself from the pre-1989 state.

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Sensitivity landscapes risk assessment of the central region Mongolia

Ryenchinmyadag Tovuudorj²²

Landscape plan is an effective tool for developing environmentally management oriented policy nature and implementation of the regional policy of nature.

Sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment these natural compensation capability after exposure. Sensitivity landscapes risk is main type landscapes of dynamics from quality, as well as outside type and form depending on the characteristics.

Sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment of classify to account first of all main types landscapes and environment and soil erosion, degradation and plant-based assessment to erect theory (*Landscape planning, 2002*). Participate in the most important areas of the survey, and environmental, social and economic state of emergency in a region of 47,864,000 thousand ha of the total covered.

Satellite image processing, data analysis, field studies 2010-2013 y.y and literary materials allowed us to map the sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment of region central region in scale 1: 3,500,000. For example occupied by sensitivity landscapes of different rate (*very weak, weak, moderate, strong, severe*) of disturbance.

1. The central region sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment by very weak of the total region 1 630,8 thousand ha either 3.41 percent;
2. The central region sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment by weak of the total region 8 676,9 thousand ha either 17.09 percent;
3. The central region sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment by moderate of the total region 6 764,5 9 thousand ha either 15.1 percent;
4. The central region sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment by strong of the total region 16 773,1 thousand ha either 35,1 percent;
5. The central region sensitivity landscapes of risk to the impact of the external to assessment by strong of the total region 14 018,5 thousand ha either 29,3 percent;

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Strategies of farming under a socio-economic perspective-impact and changes on landuse and grassland in the municipality Keutschach am See (Carinthia, Austria)

Sanglhuber Elisabeth²³

The socio-economic organization determines the conditions and possibilities of agricultural activities on family farms. Developments and prognoses for landuse, the vegetation and subsequently for biodiversity in various regions can therefore only be understood through formal and informal socio-economic contexts on site. This paper deals with strategies of farming families and their impact on landuse and grassland in a project region in Carinthia (South of Austria). The project region is called "Keutschacher Seental (Valley of lakes)" and is located in the Carinthian basin, near the provincial capital city Klagenfurt. The glacially shaped valley has four lakes, which arose over water-retaining layers after the last ice-age. The hilly relief is divided into the southern slope, the valley and the north slope, with heights from 450-850m. Due to natural conditions (Morphology, geology, soil, exposure..) and agricultural use grassland in Keutschach is very diverse. In the valley marsh areas, moorland and fields are dominating while rich pastures, rough pastures and extensive grasslands are more common on the slopes. Main agricultural sectors are cattle, horse, sheep and tourism. Farms are mixed economies (forest, livestock, crops), traditionally small to middle-sized and often run as a sideline. In the 1960 and 70s investments were made for touristic infrastructure especially buildings and campsites on the lakeside. Some farmers sold their parcels, became hoteliers or rented rooms or entire apartment buildings to tourists. Nowadays tourism is decreasing and many buildings are difficult to convert to other uses. But tourism isn't the only driving force in terms of changing conditions for agriculture in Keutschach. Also the deteriorating conditions for small farms to earn their living on agricultural production. The importance of small holder farmers for the conservation of diverse landscapes and ecosystems is predominantly linked to so called developing or emerging countries, in the European Union for example Romania. And in fact since the enlargements in 2004 and 2007 the average size of farmland in Europe decreased to 12 hectares. But also in central Europe small scaled agriculture does exist. For example in the project region it's about 13 hectares and to compare it with overseas the average size of farms in the US is 180 hectares.

The main research question for this paper is: What are the phenomena, strategies and tendencies that currently can be identified in landscape and grassland- vegetation in Keutschach and what structures are underlying (leased land, extensive animal husbandry, conservation, tourism)?

In order to answer the research question differences and similarities of individual cases (farms with grassland) in the community Keutschach will be worked out and compared. There for farm related vegetation maps (based on plant sociology), spatial-structural sketches of farms and qualitative interviews shall be carried out.

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Cross-Regional Working: What's in it for us?

Shaddock John

Working with other regions and with other disciplines can be frustrating and time-consuming. Implementation is difficult - financial and legal frameworks present a real challenge - and, to be fair, the outcomes often appear meagre. (When was the last time you consulted a 'Best Practice' handbook?). On the other hand, working with others can be stimulating and rewarding. For rural issues, can we find the innovative approaches we are promised and so desperately need?

French-Swiss rural areas and their very small companies: closed connections between domestic and professional spheres

Sposito Maylis²⁴

While rural areas are rather characterized by agriculture, we had to underline the presence of others companies, essential for economic development in these areas. This communication aims to present a research project, financed by the European Fund, between France and Switzerland. Our research project is incorporated within the framework of the Interreg IV-A French-Swiss program emanating from regional, national, and European institutions. The expansion of the EU funding plan for research is correlated to the promotion of international comparative investigation as well as the development of collaborative research projects in order to promote the territorial and cultural special features. We specifically aim to understand and prevent the economic consequences of disruptive situations in family careers in Très Petites Entreprises²⁵ in rural areas. This concerns socio-anthropological research in the remit of a program about European territorial cooperation on border territories, on the Jura French-Swiss Mountains.

This presentation intends to review the defining elements of the project, such as historical and cultural characteristics of the studied area. We clarify the significance of very small companies as a vehicle for economic dynamism and rural areas, from official statistics of each country. We also base our remarks on the issues of this research, including clarification of the close connections between domestic and professional spheres in firms with fewer than ten employees, as well as the gender-related issues inherent in family-owned companies.

Indeed, we can emphasize interference occurs between the reproductive and productive spheres. This overlap leads to consequences for the management and competitiveness of the company as well as the organization of the domestic sphere. Even if establishing oneself as a self-employed worker is largely a decision taken by men²⁶, wives play an important role in the settlement project, and we would like to emphasize this dimension of this type of organization family/work.

The team working on this project is composed of Swiss and French researchers, in order to provide prior knowledge on the territorial situations such as cultural, economic, legal and social dimensions. We will also clarify our survey methodology and sampling for this qualitative research, since we collect entrepreneurs' life stories or those of their spouses. To conclude, we will explain the first trails analysis emanating from empirical data collection. Among these results, we will underline the difference between familial hand-over of businesses and the creation of the companies facing attachment to capital goods. We will also come back to rural areas and the issues of upkeep and prevention of the consequences of disruptive situations such as suicide, divorce, chronic disease or accidents of one of family members who work in the company.

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²⁵ According to the European Commission in 2003, a *Très Petite Entreprise* is a French concept which means a very small business with fewer than 10 employees and whose annual turnover does not exceed EUR 2 million.

²⁶ We can note the low national rate of business creation by women is less than 30% in France.

Rural tourism: a solution for the countryside?

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The post-industrial countryside can be characterized by multi-functionality. It is manifested with multi-functional agriculture (and forestry) and multi-functional countryside as well. In both cases the tourism plays an important role. In the first case, it can be mentioned agritourism (sometimes ecoagritourism), in the second case it is tourism in the countryside, which uses natural, historical and cultural heritage and attractions of the countryside.

The empirical part of the study is based on the comparison of case study areas which represented individual types of the South-Moravian countryside taking into account different landscapes and geographical positions:

- Suburban area with an important historical tradition (Austerlitz battlefield)
- Artificial landscape under the UNESCO protection (Lednice-Valtice Area)
- Territory with very special natural beauties (Moravian Karst)
- Area with a living folklore which is based on the culture of wine (Blue Hills)
- Most peripheral border territory with the only national park in the region (Dyje valley)
- Comparative rural territory which is not considered for touristic region (valleys of Jihlava and Oslava rivers)

Following types of rural tourism were investigated: agritourism, second housing, cognitive tourism, gastronomy tourism, tourism for special touristic groups like families with children, seniors etc.

Following aspects of tourism were investigated: natural, architectonic and cultural attractions of the area, touristic infrastructure, selective aspects (general social situation of the area, institutional base etc.), perception of tourism from the viewpoint of customers and providers of tourism. These aspects are evaluated from the viewpoints of geographical position, population development, unemployment etc.

Central question of the study consists in reasoning how much the tourism can substitute the decreasing employment in agriculture. Hypothetically, tourism is one of the branches which could help in the rural employment together with some other branches (primary production, elaboration of local raw materials, energy production from renewable sources, social services). In other words, it helps to the multi-functionality of the countryside. Tourism could be only a part of the new rural economy.

The extent of the tourism contribution to the rural multi-functionality depends not only on local attractions but much more on the quality of local human and social capital and building of the image of the place. On the other side, the role of tourism should not be overestimated. Rural tourism has a seasonal character in the central European conditions. It is impacted with a series of barriers like insufficient infrastructure, lack of the destination management or unpreparedness of the people including the language problems. However, certain not yet exploited tourism potential in the South-Moravian region exists.

Key words: rural tourism, South Moravia

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Identification of landscape compositions on historical maps

Trpáková Lenka, Flekalová Markéta²⁸

The Designed Landscapes as a term were officially characterized by the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO) in 2008. They represent landscapes intentionally designed and created by humans. This category contains gardens, parks and large landscape compositions. Designed landscapes are a specific type of cultural landscapes whose values and characteristics usually arise not from utilitarian needs, but reflect both aesthetical preferences and culture, social or religious environment of the period. Designed landscapes have until nowadays their share in organization and quality of the site. In this paper the term "designed landscape" is used in its narrow definition, meaning large landscape compositions.

The most famous designed landscapes have been created in baroque, but there are many from previous or later periods. Czech Republic generally is rich with historical traces in landscape – also designed landscapes or their remains. Some of them are known and became part of strategic documents for the area development. But many of them (especially the older ones) are forgotten. Their traces needn't be visible in the first sight, but are still part of landscape structure, character or identity.

Especially in these cases an early identification of such a landscape and its main features and principles of composition is essential, to prevent possible damage. To be able to identify them historical maps are of invaluable help. For the analyses presented in this paper it was necessary to choose maps available for the whole Czech Republic, these requirements are met by Müller's maps and maps of Military Surveys.

The Czech Republic doesn't have a database of designed landscapes. This paper is aimed to remove part of this deficiency. It is focused on identification of older designed landscapes created in two periods. The first one is till the year 1720 (establishing of Müller's maps), the second until 1768 (the time of the 1st Military Survey). Designed landscapes may be recognized according to significant identification features, which were analysed on historical maps.

There were recognized 12 designed landscapes on Müller's maps and 255 on maps of the 1st Military Survey. These compositions are in the paper further categorized and assessed based on spatial structure, basic character of the composition and character of the main composition feature. The identified designed landscapes also may be divided into four categories, according to their material composition: type 1 - the simplest compositions of one line or unique placement of the buildings; type 2 - a composition of minimum 3 features; type 3 - designed landscapes recognized with certainty, with the structure of more composition lines spread out to the open landscape; type 4 - compositions creating clearly organized systems in the landscape, made by several compositional points and areas with fixed links.

The most important (with its structure and extend) are the designed landscapes of the types 3 and 4, mostly displayed on 1st Military Survey maps – 113 occurrences (just one on Müller's maps).

The research's results are the first step of creation a database of designed landscapes in the Czech Republic, the following step will be an analyze of maps of 2. and 3. Military Survey. This database may be an important tool both for spatial planning authorities and municipalities. Its benefit is not only pointing out the fact of potential existence of designed landscape, but also description of its basic features – composition points and links. It thus enables the elementary orientation in possible compositional values of the area.

Key words: landscape, composition, identity, historical maps

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Renewable energy and rural sustainability

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Renewable energy sources in the relation to the countryside could play more roles. They limit production of greenhouse gases underlining the ecological function of the countryside in relation to the city. They could partly substitute the retreat of jobs in classical productive agriculture strengthening the multi-functional agriculture and multi-functional rural development. They could also support lower dependence of the countryside on central energy sources, their distribution and prices.

In relation to requirements for the diversification of agriculture and land use, renewable energy resources represent a great potential for the development of rural areas. In the South Moravian Region, which can be considered an agricultural region of largely rural character, the use of this potential is at a high level. In terms of its geographical conditions and specific management systems, the South Moravian Region could become a leader in the generation of alternative energy in the Czech Republic and thus to strengthen its position.

The highest production of energy from renewable resources is concentrated in the district of the westernmost district Znojmo (total production as well as generation from individual resources and their number). The second position is occupied by the districts of Břeclav and Brno-City (namely in connection with the utilization of hydroelectric power potential).

Wind energy, which is determined in the Region by below-average climatic conditions and conflicts of interest in the field of nature conservation and landscape protection, exhibits the lowest hitherto unused development potential. The situation in the region can be considered over-dimensioned with respect to the climatic conditions, which in addition multiply the risk of a difficult predictability of energy supplies. This is why the construction of more large-sized wind power installations should not be promoted. A relatively low potential for a further development is that of hydroelectric power, the utilization of which in the Region is above average regarding the resources, and a potential increase of the generation of which would be efficient rather in connection with the modernization and optimization of the existing operations.

A certain unused potential can be seen in the production of solar energy but this would require very sensitive solutions. Prepared changes of legislation indicate that large projects will not be given such a great support any longer. This will contribute to the development of smaller projects, namely roof installations on family houses and prefabricated blocks of flats or to the boom of installations on roofs or in cladding of public buildings. From this point of view, the Region is very perspective with regard to its climatic characteristics and the development of this phenomenon is much desirable in the context of the region's self-sufficiency. However, the highest potential on a national scale can be seen in the production of biomass and biogas. The secondary use of waste should not stay off the attention either. The exploitation of renewable resources for the local decentralized production and supply of energy in rural areas can be recommended without reservations. Potential benefits are as follows:

- Exploitation of local resources for local production entails a lower traffic load in the area
- Dependence on centralized markets and their prices can be reduced
- Dependence on transmission networks and their problems (possible black-outs) can be reduced
- Responsibility of citizens in the field of energy savings can be enhanced
- Acceptance on the part of local inhabitants can be more friendly
- Contribution to the sustainability of rural areas

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As to mass production, the utilization of biomass can be advised unambiguously. The generation of energy from the plant and wood matter as well as from plant or animal residues commonly links up with agricultural and forest production for which rural inhabitants are qualified and prepared. Moreover, these resources can generate jobs that are missing particularly in peripheral rural micro-regions. However, it is necessary to avoid potential risks connected with the use of phytomass (risk of water erosion, development of monocultures decreasing the biodiversity, depletion of soil etc.).

As to the other resources, certain alertness should be advised. In any case, it is always useful to agree conditions with the producers that would facilitate the development of municipalities and micro-regions (e.g. payments into municipal budgets, assistance in the building of infrastructure etc.). It is also necessary to consider external impacts of the production and opinions of local people. In each individual case, the use of rural areas for the mass production of energy from renewable resources should become a subject of an analysis and an agreement between experts and local inhabitants. The main danger consists in potential consumption of the countryside instead of supporting of its sustainability. The monitoring of a further development is definitely a task for a future research.

Key words: renewable energy, countryside, South Moravia

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Landscape memory and rural identity

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Cultural landscape is subject to permanent change. It is relatively easy to analyse quantitative and qualitative changes in the (secondary) landscape (land use, land cover). But some investigations about social and mental aspect are rare. But just the mental changes and landscape perception are often most determining for a creation of local identity and by such a way for a stabilization of rural settlement.

Local identity connected with the cultural landscape plays a key role in rural development, especially in marginal rural regions. They have hardly any other possibility than to build their micro-regional strategy on unique relations between man and landscape. At the present time, the European Landscape Convention manifests the generally respected frame for the investigation and its application in territorial planning.

The study is aimed on theoretically – methodological starting point for the unique possibility to capture vanishing testimony about the cultural landscape in the mid of the last century and its later changes and to retain it for the future generations.

The methodology consists of following steps: to elaborate typology of contemporary landscape, to define landscape values for the next investigation, to select case study areas. Subsequently the field research will be realized, aimed at own evaluation of the landscape values, perception of the cultural landscape and its changes by responsible persons, seniors 65+ and young people. A synthesis will be based on the comparison of “objective” landscape development using statistical data and aerial photographs and “mental” landscape development hiding in the perception of the people.

Following landscape values are evaluated: cultural, social, recreational, functional, natural. Cultural values of the landscape are seen in spiritual and religious values, intangible values (like personalities, events, fairy tales), recognized cultural values (protected monuments of different ranks) and informal values like landscape composition, urban structure, permeability etc.

Social values are represented mostly by landscape suitable for meetings of people. Recreational values consist in recreational zones, geoparks, medicinal values etc. Among functional values of the landscape anti-erosional, anti-flood measurements, landscaping can be named. Natural values are represented by landscape and nature protection of various scale.

The case study areas were selected considering the past development of the landscape. Following landscapes are represented: suburban landscape in the hinterland of Brno (Šlapanice micro-region), landscape with intensive agriculture and vine growing (Podluží), inner periphery with some mining activities (Bystřice nad Pernštejnem area), borderland periphery where the majority of population was exchanged after WWII (Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou micro-region) and highland landscape (Nové Město na Moravě and Vysoké Myto micro-regions).

In the case study areas primary (natural), secondary (land use, land cover) and tertiary (landscape protection, socio-economic sphere etc.) landscape structures are analysed. We try to grasp genius loci of individual landscapes. The investigation is aimed at discovery, description, localization and if possible quantification of the values and their reflection in human perception.

Key words: landscape memory, landscape values, rural identity, Czechia

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Employment tendencies in Latvian countryside and possible solutions for solving employment problems

Veveris Armands, Ozolins Janis, Mikelsone Zaiga³¹

More than a half of EU population resides in rural territories. These regions produce in excess of 45% of the GVA and ensure approximately 53% of EU27 jobs.

As indicated in SEGIRA research (ECORYS, 2010), the economic structure of rural regions is in process of transformation. However a common trend is economic backwardness in comparison with urbanised regions and one of the most important problems in the rural regions is employment. Employment problem expresses itself both in form of lower proportion of the employed, higher level of unemployment and in limited possibility to find a well-remunerated job in the field of specialisation. The above-mentioned problems are shown by the research carried out in Latvia to be the main factors that are decreasing attractiveness of rural areas although absolutely most respondents regard countryside as a “good place to live”.

The aim of the paper is to find major employment tendencies in the EU rural areas based on the Latvian case and to develop suggestions for promotion of entrepreneurship and creation of new jobs in these areas.

The main issues analysed in the paper are as follows:

- The main economic development problems in rural areas.
- The employment trends in EU and Latvian rural areas and scenarios of further development.
- Analysis of the previous types of support to find the highest effect in creating and preserving jobs; the most important and sustainable activities to support.
- Finding of the prospective development directions in the countryside for creating jobs and exporting.
- Identifying of the key preconditions for development of entrepreneurship, what can government and municipalities do.

A range of qualitative and quantitative methods has been used to characterise the situation – analysis of statistics, time-series, results of interviews and surveys and logic constructive method. A broad discussion based on EU, including Latvian scientists' previous research has been presented.

The importance of this problem illustrated the fact that during the time period from 2000 to 2011 in 40% of Latvian administrative territories (counties) the population has decreased by more than 20% and the process continues. Depopulation results in decreased availability of services for the remaining part of rural population – service places become more distant and service reception involves higher costs (Leimane, Miglavs 2012 etc.).

In survey responses the key problem issue cited by the respondents is decent employment opportunities.

There are large structural changes in demand for labour in Latvian countryside – strong decrease in agriculture and manufacturing and some increase in tertiary sphere branches, especially financial, insurance, information technology and communication services.

The analysis of data as well as research carried out in EU countries shows that superior economic development results are demonstrated by regions which successfully use synergies of several economic activities. Rural territories' functional spectrum is much broader than the traditional production of agricultural and forestry products and counterbalancing of side effects of urbanised territories. Analysis shows that the functional spectrum of rural territories, including its growth and employment potential has considerably increased and provides space for location-oriented, individualised development policy. In view of the growing opportunity for distance work, a potential for the development of such jobs exists but a precondition for realisation of the potential is presence of infrastructure facilitative to work and living.

Keywords: rural economy, employment, regional development

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Connected Communities

Wallace Claire³²

The study is about social cohesion in rural communities and how this is shaped by Information and Communications Technology (ICT). This paper looks at two contrasting rural communities in Northern Scotland and the role that information and communications technology plays in helping community members to create communities both online and offline by re-embedding social relationships in a particular locality. The paper concludes that ICT can help to promote social cohesion in rural communities, but this depends upon the social relationships within the community itself.

The British countryside is being transformed both by changing populations and by the possibilities offered by ICT to enable people to live and work remotely but also to interact with their local communities in new ways. Local communities are thus created through online and offline interactions which have implications for the kinds of social cohesion being developed in these places.

Deriving from Durkheimian sociology, social cohesion refers to the social bonds and social norms that hold society together (Durkheim, 1964). It is usually analysed at a national level, often in terms of quantitative indicators. One recent study has defined social cohesion as referring to the nature of social networks, the level of connectedness and the commitment to the common good, which we might term social solidarity (Dragolov, et al., 2013). So far, few people have tried to look at social cohesion either qualitatively or at a local level.

All of these elements of social cohesion can be expressed in and augmented by digital communications. Indeed, digital presence is one way of researching these relationships which might exist virtually as well as face- to-face. Social capital can potentially be augmented by ICT communications, especially the weak ties that enable people to “get things done” although the strong ties might also be assisted by social and other communications media such as Facebook and texting (author ref). Many studies have argued that participation in local civil society activity is also enhanced by digital communications (Pigg and Crank, 2005). However, these ties can also link people to broader networks that but can help form bridging networks with people and organisations outside of the locality.

Two communities in Scotland were selected for study: one a relatively remote rural community set at the end of a peninsula with a strong tradition of community engagement and the second a village within easy commuting distance of Aberdeen. The two villages, which we will term “Peninsula Village” and “Commuter Village” are of comparable size with around one thousand inhabitants. The first community had enjoyed online communications for some twenty years, being one of the first localities in Scotland to be linked to internet and later to high speed broadband through a fibre optic cable set up by a private company. The second community initiated their own fast broadband access through setting up a radio link system, with backhaul to a relay point in Aberdeen, financed through a social enterprise. However, this happened less than two years before the study took place and so their superfast online connectivity is relatively new, although they were previous connected through slower methods.

Social cohesion was manifested in very different ways in the two communities in question. Despite being of similar size and composition, the social relationships were very different. In Peninsula Village the commitment of the “bohemian middle class” to developing a sense of solidarity was manifested in numerous organisations and voluntary activity. In Commuter Village, the more privatised lifestyles and identification with nearby cities and towns rather than with the village meant that it was difficult to raise enthusiasm for a social enterprise and residents led more private lives within their own homes. Nevertheless online communications were important for residents to pursue their personal and professional lives and were also used to contact neighbours through a process of local re-embedding of social relationships.

ICT was used in Peninsula Village to bridge social divisions and self-consciously create an online cohesive community presence. In Commuter Village, the use of ICT tended to reflect private networks and preoccupations, even when these were locally based (for example getting together for a barbeque). In this community-building enterprise, ICT can play an important part. ICT enables various elements of the community to connect to one another and the community to present itself to the world, ensuring both

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system integration at the level of the community and social integration in the way individuals were embedded in it. It enables the development of community cultural heritage which is an important element for creating a sense of belonging and connectedness to place. However, the way in which ICT is shaped depends upon the nature of the community existing offline too.

The effects of spatial growth of economic activity in rural areas and small towns in Polish Carpathian region during recent years

Węclawowicz-Bilska Elżbieta³³

Carpathian region is one of the few mountain areas in Poland, which is 6% of the entire country. Due to the high value of the natural environment and cultural heritage, significant areas of the region covered diverse natural and cultural conservation. Is located here 6 out of 23 Polish national parks, numerous Country Parks and Protected Landscape Areas. The layout of the settlement is dominated by small and medium-sized towns located in river valleys and in valleys of the mountain and the scattered buildings of small scale rural inscribed in the landscape.

The cultural environment of the region contains numerous towns origin with preserved medieval urban layout and multiple objects and principles of the sacred, castles, palaces, mansions, and small wooden churches and Orthodox churches Retained Mainly in the rural centers. Some of the sites were placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Many of these historical assumptions is scenically and spatially strongly associated with mountain or foothill landscape.

These areas are in many planning documents for the whole country, or province, of years were allocated for the development of recreation and tourism functions and spa due to the natural resources of medicinal raw materials, and many spas (thirteen spas in the total number of forty tree spas in Poland).

Observed before the economic activity in this area has focused in and around the major cities and centers of medium size. Research conducted over the past three years in 27 cities and villages of the Carpathian region in Poland In recent years more and more commonly appear in industrial areas in the immediate vicinity of the small settlement centres. In small towns (inhabited by a few-possibly several thousand inhabitants) or in the villages, such areas are localized on municipal land but increasingly also on private land. The surface of these areas is constantly increasing and the number of their location.

The development of diverse business activities carried out in these small teams settlement, often associated with the natural landscape of the traditional agricultural and pastoral. It is now with the rise in unemployment in the area due to political changes. In many instances the development of industrial activities takes place in designated large areas favored as Special Economic Zones or industrial parks. In these spaces are built large industrial facilities often dominates the adjacent small town or rural buildings. Easier location of industrial facilities supported political decisions is in fact helps to eliminate unemployment, increases the potential economic and financial district.

Spatial consequences resulting from the implementation of these new large industrial investments in traditionally built cultural environment relate to areas of social, spatial, cultural and economic. For each of them are different.

This appears to be just in the realm of cultural and spatial damages arising from investments, sometimes for a short period during the operation, provided for rapid change can make the biggest and sometimes irreversible. Taking place investments associated with the economic development of small urban centres and rural areas today, can have a significant impact on the transformation of the traditional countryside of this region in the future.

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Reclamation of surface mine areas in suburbs of Cracow

Wójcikowski Wojciech Karol³⁴

The surface mining is a temporary activity but it generates a number of significant environmental impacts in every corner of the world. It is an integral part of the progress of civilization. From years the humanity strives to ensure the existence using available natural assets. A variety of environmental problems, including air, land, and water pollution arise from mining activities. The detrimental impact of mining has been a topic of concern for many years.

Surface mining is a very dynamic industry, almost caused environmental degradation, it disrupts virtually all aesthetic elements of the landscape. Alteration of landforms often imposes unfamiliar and discontinuous configurations. New linear patterns appear as material is extracted and waste piles are developed. Different colours and textures are exposed as vegetative cover is removed and overburden dumped to the side. Dust, vibration, and diesel exhaust odours are created (affecting sight, sound, and smell). For all of the residents of local communities often find such impacts disturbing or unpleasant.

The problem of restoration or reclamation is one of world-wide dimension. It is seen most clearly in highly developed, industrialised nations. However, the economy of these nations has often required the exploitation of resources in less developed and more remote areas, sometimes merely the degradation of land by agricultural use. Restoration problems therefore exist throughout the world³⁵.

When the mineral resource is exhausted in mine or when from economic reasons the operations is no longer profitable mine need to be closed. Under the low regulations in most of countries mine required a special closure plan that show to the local authority that the mine will not threat to the health of the environment or society in the future.

Since more than 50 years, according the law, when a mining ends, operators must restore the land to its approximate original use or leave the land graded and suitable for a **“higher and better”** post-mining land use that has been approved as part of the original mining permit application. Some exceptions should be provided when a community or surface owner is in need of flat or gently rolling terrain, acceptable post-mining land uses include commercial, residential, recreational, agricultural or public facility improvements. Mine sites are usually returned to their pre-mine uses, which, for the majority of mines all over the world is wildlife habitat, forestry or agriculture. Surface mine sites can take advantage of existing infrastructure and contribute to the local economy after the mine has closed down³⁶.

In Poland there are about 1,500 surface mines. Lots of are located in Southern Poland in the countryside. The geology of this part of Poland is very rich so there are all types of surface mines, open pit mines and there are especially quarries: both small and large. They mined mainly raw materials such as limestone, sandstone, porphyry, diabases, marble and dolomite. Lots of them are located in the countryside but the largest number of them is located in near middle size and big cities even some of them in the centre of the big cities.

Cracow and its suburbs is an excellent example of the reclamation of surface mine for recreational use like first quarry in Poland changed to the park like Bednarski Park and the deepest diving centre in the South Poland previous quarry Zakrzówek now Zakrzówek lagoon. Also few open pits changed to lagoons like in Przylasek Rusiecki, Kryspinów, Bagry. It turned out that some of those reservoirs despite being located in areas heavily affected by industry preserved natural values, and sometimes even enriched them becoming, as a result, attractive sites of Kraków. This was mostly influenced by the Nature itself, who for many years after the end of exploitation was “stabilizing” the disturbed balance while human only sometimes helped her in this task³⁷.

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³⁵ Bradshaw A., Chadwick M., *The Restoration of Land: The Ecology and Reclamation of Derelict and Degraded Land*, University of California Press, 1980 p. 2

³⁶ and also could be used as: museums or education centres, visitor attractions, scientific centres, recreational areas, gardens or parks, fish farms.

³⁷ Pietrzyk-Sokółska E. *WATER RESERVOIRS IN POST-MINING QUARRIES – NEW COMPONENT OF CITY'S LANDSCAPE ATTRACTIVENESS*, KRAJOBRAZ A TURYSTYKA Prace Komisji Krajobrazu Kulturowego Nr 14 ,Komisja Krajobrazu Kulturowego PTG, Sosnowiec, 2010, p.264

In nearest future, lots of open-pit and quarry mines will be closed in suburb of Cracow, some because of economic reasons, the others because of finishing resources. So there is need and possibility to think about those reclamations. Also there is a need to prepare new projects for such reclamation. Finding new ideas, design and develops them, that is a task for local authorities, owners, operators and planners.

Key words: reclamation, recreation, surface mine, quarry

Social development of ecologically sensitive rural areas: case studies Moravian Karst (Czechia) and Devetashko Plato (Bulgaria)

Zapletalová Jana³⁸, Stefanova Dilyana³⁹, Vaishar Antonín, Stefanov Petar, Dvořák Petr, Tcherkezova Emilia

Territories under large scale landscape protection in post-communist countries pass through a complicated development. The policy of levelling the social development was abandoned. General trend of strengthening of landscape protection is confronted with the market conditions which are pushing to the intensive use of natural resources. Local population writhe between the nostalgia for the home place and impossibility to find an appropriate work.

To understand present development in such kind of territories, two case study areas were selected: The Moravian Karst in Czechia and Devetashko Plato in Bulgaria. Methodologically, an analysis of secondary sources, evaluation of statistical "hard" data and field research were used. Comparative analysis represents the final step.

Protected Landscape Area Moravian Karst (92 km²) is the largest karst area in Czechia. It is situated north of Brno in Drahanská vrchovina Highland. Current economic activities include primary branches: forestry (5,345 ha): *Picea abies* in the North, *Fagus sylvatica* in the Middle and *Carpinus betulus* with *Quercus* in the South. Forest Enterprise Masarykův les Křtiny is the educational unit of the Mendel University in Brno. Agriculture is directed more to the crop production, less to the animal husbandry. Mining includes one mine of the limestone directly on the territory, the second (big) one can be found just on the border. Fishery is an additional primary activity. Tourism develops quickly with 400,000 visitors annually (mostly one-day tourist). Industry is directed to the primary elaboration of agricultural products. Big industrial plants were situated on the fringe of the area in Blansko (mainly electrical) and Adamov (machinery). Rural development is supported by the Local Action Group Moravian karst. There are 9,353 inhabitants in the area (2012). The population number increased by 18% since 2000.

Devetashko Plato (56 ha) is relatively comparable territory as concerns natural conditions. It is also a karst area with activities in agriculture, livestock and tourism. The territory is situated east from Lovech (the town which is about ten times smaller than Brno), bounded by the Osam river to the North and is remote from important regional centres. Oak forests prevail in the area. There are villages (parts of 4 municipalities) situated in the territory with about 2,000 inhabitants. The area lost about 45% of inhabitants between 2000 and 2012. Aging is very typical for the settlements. The social situation is complicated by the presence of national minorities (Turks and Roma). Lovech has gained a big Chinese investment (Great Wall Motors) in the automotive industry in 2012. The question is whether the villages in Devetashko plato are able to use this activity for commuting due to the age and professional and educational structure of their population and existing transport conditions. In the last time, new tourist facilities develop on the fringe of the area.

The first results show that the main difference between both the areas could consist in their geographical positions. Moravian karst in the vicinity of a large regional centre uses its social infrastructure and job offer and is served by a relatively dense and frequent network of integrated public transport. Lovech is much weaker centre. Other differences could be based on different economic and social conditions in both the countries.

However, the question is, which micro-region is in better situation. Moravian karst is under pressure of tourism (some roads had to be closed for individual transport), its southern part also under the pressure of suburbanization. Improper agricultural methods in karst areas may lead to huge water erosion. So, the territory has to defend its ecological sustainability. On the other side, Devetashko plato is abandoned by its population step by step. The soil partly lies fallow. A part of the housing fund is abandoned and dilapidates. The territory is not socially sustainable.

Key words: *environmentally sensitive areas, karst, social development, Moravian karst, Devetashko Plato*

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Posters

Living on the edge—possibilities to develop rural landscape

Bocheńska-Skalecka Anna⁴⁰

Nowadays we are witnessing uncontrolled disappearing borders between towns and villages, urban space and countryside. This situation allows start searching for new forms of rural dwelling (outside city/town). "Living on the edge" is an interesting example applies to a location taking advantage of the borderline space and landscape values on the edge between different spaces. This gives us to create new structures to live between urbanized areas and landscape.

We present two ways to search chances to develop countryside. We start to use context of location: on the river- in the first example. The strong mark of village – differentiator (cultural heritage) is the main point to start created new edge of settlement but continued or refered to features old village.

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The landscape structure of Vysokomýtsko micro-region

Doskočilová Veronika, Vavrouchová Hana

The Landscape memory project maps the transformations in cultural landscape of the Czech Republic in the mental image of their inhabitants. The purpose is to capture disappearing testimony about the landscape and to preserve it for future generations. The aim of the project is to identify, analyse and permanently document the changes of landscape. The Vysokomýtsko micro-region is one of the studied areas. It includes 28 municipalities with area nearly 200 km². It is a voluntary association of municipalities in the Pardubice region, which was established in 2001.

The Vysokomýtsko micro-region is located in the foot hills of the Orlické Mountains. The micro-region surface is hilling area with the average elevation about 350 meters above sea level. It is a slightly warm and slightly damp climatic area with intensive use of agricultural land. The Vysokomýtsko micro-region is the warmest and the driest area in the Pardubice region. The micro-region area falls in to the Labe river basin.

The micro-region landscape has been used by humans since prehistoric times. Vysokomýtsko micro-region is predominantly rural type. There are more than 21,000 inhabitants, but the population density is below average. Three quarters of municipalities are villages with more than 500 inhabitants. There is just one small town – Vysoké Mýto. Vysoké Mýto was founded by Přemysl Otakar II in 1262 on the Trstenice trail. The status of Vysoké Mýto was changed to a royal dowry town in 1307.

The Vysokomýtsko micro-region has the largest percentage of agricultural land in the Pardubice region. Arable land is covering more than half of the micro-region. Forest area is quite small and widely dispersed, larger area of forests is in the north of the micro-region. Permanent grass land covers almost one fifth of agricultural land. There are not vine yards and hop fields in the micro-region. During last years, there is an increase of developed and other areas.

The micro-region landscape is very scenic and includes several natural monuments. There are several natural monuments and botanical significant areas in the Vysokomýtsko micro-region. Vysoké Mýto is a historic town with many interesting monuments. There is the largest square centre in the Czech Republic. The whole historical centre was originally fortified. It is preserved fairly extensive remains of the walls until now, and all three of the original entrance gate to the town. Currently, Vysoké Mýto is the centre of the micro-region.

The modern chronicle of two micro-region villages (Bučina and Pustina) will be the project output. Chronicle will collect this knowledge, archival video and audio documents and unique information. Commonly used methods of the landscape mapping will be added a collection of memories and stories of local residents. Semistructured interview will be conducted in order to obtain initial information on the evolution of the landscape. On this basis, it will be a comparative study about accurate historical sources of landscape (cadastral maps, aerial photos, local chronicles, etc.). Other important results of the project will include the popularization of the micro-region issues and the organization of meetings of local residents. It should support the interests of regional history and support related to domestic landscape. The results of the project will be also used to promote the micro-region and for the government.

Key words: landscape changes, landscape memory, landscape structure, Vysokomýtsko micro-region

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Tourist attractions in the Ivančice micro-region

Doskočilová Veronika, Šťastná Milada, Vaishar Antonín

Attractiveness is the primary prerequisite for the development of tourism in some region. This attractiveness consists of a series of elements and factors. First of all, there are natural beauty and peculiarities. The second factors are the attractions created by man. There are historic buildings and their residues, urbanism and architecture of settlements or technical monuments and buildings. Even modern buildings which are important, popular or unusual may be attractions. Integral parts of attractiveness are also people, their customs and traditions, folklore and gastronomy associated with wine culture. It can be also the nature of pilgrim ages events, celebrations and festivals. However not only region's attractiveness determine the success of tourism. The marketing strategy and information dissemination are also important.

The aim of the project is to map the issue tourism as one of the promising sectors for rural development. One case micro-region is an Ivančice micro-region. The Ivančice micro-region is a voluntary union of 11 villages founded for the purpose of protecting and promoting the common interests and cooperation in the activities development. The micro-region falls under the South Moravian Region in the southwest Brno district. Almost 22,000 inhabitants live in the Ivančice micro-region. The micro-region area is more than 140 km².

The micro-region has a hilly character. The terrain is significantly influenced by the recessed canyons of rivers Jihlava, Oslava and Rokytná which form the axis of the micro-region with an altitude between 200 and 380 meters above sea level. The Ivančice micro-region belongs to a warm area with an average air temperature of 10°C. The whole area falls into the Morava river basin. There are undermined areas in the municipalities Oslavany, Nová Ves, Čučice and Ivančice as a remnant of mining activities in the micro-region.

The Ivančice micro-region is typically naturally valuable landscape. There were announced 3 nature parks on its territory – the nature park Bobrava, the nature park Oslava and the nature park Střední Pojhlaví. There are also two nature reserves in the micro-region - the nature reserve Údolí Oslavy a Chvojnice and the nature reserve Nad řekami. There are 4 themed cycling routes from Oslavany – the Pivovar cycling route, the Templář cycling route, the Horník cycling route and the Energie cycling route. All cycling routes are properly marked. There are also two nature trails in the micro-region - on the left bank of the river Oslava and in the Park Réna in Ivančice.

It is evident from archaeological findings that the area has been continuously inhabited since Neolithic times. The area was affected by the development of towns Oslavany, Dolní Kounice and Ivančice since the Middle Ages. The most important cultural monument is former convent in Oslavany, which was rebuilt to the castle in the 16th century. There is declared an urban area in the Ivančice centre. The most important monuments in Dolní Kounice are Jewish synagogue, Rosa Coeli monastery and castle. The railway viaduct over the river Jihlava is the recent monument.

Accommodation facilities are in Ivančice, Dolní Kounice and Oslavany. There is hospitality almost in every village. Large cottage colony occurs around the river Jihlava and river Oslava. The second housing is the most widespread in the cadastral municipality of Čučice, Ivančice and Nové Bránice.

The micro-region is characterized by extensive associational life. The municipalities are also held garb feast, fairs, dances, balls and concerts. Towns are the centre of cultural events. There are information centres in Oslavany, Ivančice and Dolní Kounice. The historic celebrations, Pilgrimage and Vandrobrání are the most visited events in Oslavany. There are the Asparagus festival and the St. Wenceslas markets in Ivančice and the Wine festival in Dolní Kounice. The micro-region has also a rich wine tradition. The southern part of the Brno wine trail crosses the Ivančice micro-region.

The territory of Pojhlaví and Pooslaví is not considered as very attractive for tourism. Attraction for short-term recreation may be countryside and cultural monuments. Landscape of the Ivančice micro-region is picturesque and provides many opportunities for hiking. The northwest part is rich in natural attractions. Cultural and historical monuments predominate in the south-western part of the micro-region.

Key words: attractiveness of tourism, countryside, cultural monuments, Ivančice micro-region

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The use of grants in the development of regions: case study of rural tourism

Došková Soňa, Fialová Jitka⁴¹

The aims of this work were to evaluate the use of grants from Rural Development Programme in the South Moravian region as a part of priority axis III. 1.3 in the programming period 2007–2013 and to propose measures to simplify the process of grant acquisition. To achieve this aim, the work was divided into several parts. The development and objectives of European Union are described starting from the EU foundation to the present. Moreover, the actual structure of operational programmes and Rural Development Programme is presented. Next, the part focusing on rural area and rural tourism follows. The SWOT analysis is used to identify strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the grant acquisition process from the applicant's point of view. The SMART method is based on the results of the SWOT analysis and strives for threats and weaknesses elimination and utilization of the strengths and opportunities from the applicant's point of view. All the methods and guidelines are used in the practical part.

At first, the South Moravian region is described concisely, after that the approved projects from the area of the Czech Republic (especially the South Moravian region) are considered. All calls of the Rural Development Programme (III. 1.3) in the programming period are evaluated. Valuable information was obtained from survey results, which contained data from 105 successful applicants for grants (III. 1.3) in the area of South Moravia. The results obtained from 68 successful applicants are graphically processed and commented.

The strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats are evaluated from the applicant's point of view based on survey results and other resources related to this area. The SMART method, based on results of the SWOT analysis, is used to simplify the grant acquisition process. Several useful recommendations are proposed to eliminate threats and weaknesses using opportunities and strengths to simplify the grant acquisition process from the applicant's point of view.

Keywords: tourism, applicant, rural development programme, programming period, rural area, grant

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Senior Initiatives within a Context of Successful Ageing in Latvia: Good Practice in Rural Communities

Grinfelde Anda, Paula Liga⁴²

Population ageing has become a challenging problem for many countries including Europe and Latvia especially in rural areas. One of the future challenges in Latvia is to recognize that seniors as a socially active and healthy oldest generation, which is able to sustain itself, is significant resource for their families, local communities and wider society. This complies with idea of successful ageing, which means active and productive lifestyle and attitude towards life preserving positive individual self-esteem. The aim of this study was to recognize capable senior communities in rural areas in Latvia and to present some senior communities of practice (CoP) as examples of good practice. Popularization of good examples in wider society promotes local communities to adapt successful experience in responding to senior needs.

In this presentation the authors define seniors as individuals in age over 50; however, the study focuses more on retired people. According to the theoretical assumptions successful senior groups and networks are treated as CoPs. In this study the CoP is defined as a group of individuals participating in various social activities, mutually exchanging experience and sharing common identity as well as contributing to community's practices. CoP may be both formal (e.g., NGOs, senior associations) and informal (local interest groups or informal networks). Through CoPs rural communities (in this study – rural municipalities) realize their objectives and tasks by pooling local resources and abilities as well as performing according to local values and interests. Senior CoPs are important within a context of successful ageing as they raise seniors' social, cultural, economic, and political capability.

In order to evaluate good practices of senior CoPs, the methodology of this study is based on criteria developed by E. Berdach: (1) originality of the idea, (2) its significance in provision of successful ageing, (3) financial impact, and (4) adaptation of experience. Data were obtained via e-mail communication and discussions with municipal officials and members of senior organizations in 108 rural municipalities representing all five Latvia's planning regions in 2013 and 2014.

The data shows that regarding ageing policy makers in half of the municipalities do not plan specific initiatives for successful ageing, whereas in other they have thought of some activities although indirectly focused on seniors. In local rural communities the most important activities and initiatives of senior CoPs related to successful ageing were identified. They are Senior Councils in local municipalities, services of Day Centres, social care at home, senior contribution to amateur performances, life-long education opportunities (acquisition of computer skills, etc.), excursions and experience exchange, participation in senior recreational, sport, and leisure activities, healthy life-style activities. Although economic performances of seniors were identified, capability of senior CoPs is more obvious in cultural, social, and political dimensions. However, examples of good practice are obvious in all capability dimensions in many rural municipalities (for example, in Riebiņi (Latgale region), in Rundāle (Zemgale region), and in Talsi and Ventspils (Kurzeme region)). This allows concluding that seniors and their CoPs are significant resource able to turn population ageing problem into opportunity within a context of future demographic challenges in Latvia. Senior CoPs are significant element of social structure in rural communities as they perform as intermediates between individuals, small senior groups and wider society. The authors put forward the assumption that frequency and diversity of initiatives related to successful ageing correlates with performance of senior CoPs in local rural communities.

Key words: capability, community of practice, good practice, rural communities, successful ageing

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Residential units in cultural landscape of Lower Silesia – protection and management issues

Gubański Janusz, Gubańska Renata, Burdziński Jacek⁴³

Lower Silesia abounds with many palatial and farm units. Residential building units together with park greenery and farm and dwelling objects are landmarks of villages in Lower Silesia, determining their character and identity. Monumental bodies of palaces and manors and nearby spacious multicourtyard structures of farmyards create characteristic elements of the landscape. Elaborate architectural form of a residence, interesting architectural detail of livestock and warehouse buildings, as well as extensive parks with an abundant forest stand used to be vital to the units.

Post-war changes as well as transformations of the late 20th century have led to severe degradation of palatial establishments. Recently, there have been many examples of correct adaptations and revaluations. Unfortunately, there are still too many examples of buildings used sparingly or completely unused which are in a very bad condition. Degrading objects have a bad influence on spatial structure of a place and its image. The study presents preservation, use, protection and adaptation issues of residential units in Lower Silesia on selected examples.

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Evaluation of a selected area considering development of regions in relation with leisure time utilization of the environment

Košťálová Romana, Fialová Jitka⁴⁴

Tourism gains on importance more and more in the current economics. Tourism development brings positive effects into the area (employment, infrastructure and municipal equipment development and public and private income) in most cases. Country micro-region covers minor area of the Czech Republic in comparison with regions of global importance (Prague, Krkonoše). It does have its possibilities that can be mostly offered to the local tourists, who seek a cheap, but interesting vacation.

The main aim of this work is an evaluation of a selected area considering development of regions in relation with leisure time utilization of the environment. The micro-region discussed was chosen due to its positioning within the Opavian-Silesian touristic area, which is at the beginning of its development and forming an appropriate functioning of destination management.

The evaluation of potential is based on building a custom methodics, using an approach of other authors. Presumptions based on a custom field survey and interviews with local governments were evaluated. The municipalities were being marked on a scale 1-4 for particular activities and equipment; a table of values was prepared, based on the sum per each municipality. The scale for the points was set clearly, so the potential for tourism for each municipality is clearly visible. The evaluation of the tourism potential should be between 40 – 75 points, which meant the category is not a potential, more precisely it is not a potential and there are reasonable conditions for tourism development. None of the municipalities has reached an excellent condition for tourism development. The result of the survey then is that there are certain conditions for tourism development in the chosen municipalities. Another municipalities, namely Svatoňovice, Branky u Opavy, Mikolajice and Skřipov have minimum or more likely no potential - mostly because the municipalities are small not having enough resources for their development.

There were two municipalities, rated as higher potential within the evaluation scope. Their potential is currently being used relatively well. Other municipalities, regardless their lower potential evaluation, still do have some interesting development possibilities. It is mostly country tourism and agro-tourism, what is becoming a new era trend in the field of tourism. The new trend is interesting mostly for a specific target group.

Most municipalities do pose suitable development environment for this kind of tourism in the Moravice country micro region. With the rise of small businesses, it is now possible to think of development of the municipalities in this direction. On top of this, the surrounding nature is quite simple and does not carry any significant dangers (falling of a cliff, avalanches, etc.). Development of accommodation possibilities also comes hand in hand with the development of agricultural tourism. A good business can usually take care of providing a possibility of dining with tasting of their own products at their location, which provides a priceless way of self-advertising.

Most of the mayors interviewed, would also welcome this form of development. It would mean new tourists, coming into the city, bringing financial resources and allowing the municipality to develop in a calm way, without any bigger projects. The municipalities avoid introducing tourism fees in order to support local businesses. There are no other tools in their field of competence.

A collaboration with the Opavian-Silesian destination management, which holds the resources for propagation and creation of common activities seems to be an appropriate way of tourism development. For the tourists, it is also quite handy to have the opportunity to visit a touristic area, where they can find a different type of activity in every village, rather than just spending the whole vacation at one spot.

Keywords: *tourism potential, destination management, country tourism, Moravice micro-region, regional development*

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Landscape memory as rural heritage – micro-region Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou

Kozlovská Silvie, Vavrouchová Hana⁴⁵

Project Landscape Memory aims to map the changes in the cultural landscape of Bohemia and Moravia in the mental image of their inhabitants. Commonly used methods of mapping the landscape were supplemented by a collection of narrative sources, memories and stories of survivors.

Study area is micro-region Hrušovansko (around Hrušovany nad Jevišovkou), comprising 14 municipalities with a total area of about 243 km². It is a gently undulating and intensively farmed landscape of the Dyje-Svratka valley. Arable land accounts for almost three-quarters of the monitored area. In contrast, the forest area is only 11 %.

Landscape of the micro-region Hrušovansko has been used by humans since prehistoric times and human activity strongly formed this area. It's mainly about the impact of agricultural activities (fields, vineyards, ponds, raceways, irrigation channels), construction activities, religiosity of the residents (small sacred architecture in the landscape, chapels, columns of the crucifixion, calvaries, stone crosses), etc.

Remarkable phenomenon of the area is the occurrence of numerous Croatian minority, who lived here until the 50s of the 20th century, and specifically influenced the culture and life of the region (esp. village Jevišovka, formerly Frélichov).

The main factor that influenced the micro-region is modern political and social development. This is an area where there was a post-war expulsion of most of the population and the arrival of new colonists. This led to a dramatic break of the traditional ties of inhabitants to the surrounding countryside, so typical of the areas with the same fate. Another similarly contributing factor was collectivization in the 50s and 60s. A major role to the number and composition of the population also played the close vicinity of the Iron Curtain - the Austrian border. Therefore Hrušovansko became from the perspective of the state peripheral region.

The dramatic decline in population of micro-region during 1930-1950 was associated with World War II and post-war displacement of the population, followed by a slower decline in the following years (probably related to modern urbanism and weak economic potential of the border region) and a small increase in the last decade (restoring the attractiveness of the region after the fall of the Iron Curtain and marginally also a trend of suburbanization).

Surveyed area is represented by the community Božice, which is one of the larger settlements (1541 inhabitants) in the micro-region. Demographic trends of Božice copied the trend of the whole micro-region.

The dominant method of the research is semi-structured interview with witnesses or people with knowledge of regional history and development of the local landscape. The interview will be conducted towards the profit of the original information about the development of landscape that can no longer be captured in other sources (already non-existent entities - defunct buildings in the landscape, local names of tracks, farms, etc.). A comparison will then be made by the study of exact historical sources (cadastral maps, aerial photos, local chronicle, etc.)

Another monitored phenomenon is relationship of the population to the cultural legacy of the German and Croatian minorities and its projection into today's cultural sphere. The work also attempts to quantify such subtle variables as the emotional relationship and ties to the landscape depending on the origin of man, whether he is from the family of old settlers or immigrants.

The outcome of the project will be the Modern chronicle of the village Božice that synthesizes acquired knowledge, archive video and audio documents, treasuring original and unique information. Other important outcomes are popularization the issue and organization of discussions and meetings to encourage interest in regional history and local domestic patriotism, relationship to the home landscape.

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The Changing landscape of Bystřice nad Pernštejnem micro-region

Lincová Helena⁴⁶, Vavrouchová Hana

Czech cultural landscape went through many changes during the last seventy years. These changes are on the political agenda today and they are predominantly investigated by comparative methods.

The two-year project: "*Landscape memory as a rural heritage – the changes of Czech cultural landscape in the mental reflection of its inhabitants*", started in January 2014. This project is focused on identification of a unique local identity and creating a theoretical base applicable in territorial planning. The aim of this paper is to present a partial research, which has been carried out till these days.

Bytřice nad Pernštejnem micro-region is situated in Vysočina district, close to the midpoint of Czech Republic. On the contrary to the location the micro-region is characterized by bad conditions of public transport and road network. Whole territory consists of 37 municipalities with total area of about 326 km².

The micro-region has been influenced by three main factors. Firstly, geological processes formed the surface to highlands landscape. Secondly, the Svratka river created a wild water meadow and finally a human being changed the countryside in many aspects. The most significant are these:

- The Perštejn family. They took over an agricultural landscape in 13th century. Nowadays, there are many ruins, which used to be a summer residence.
- Mining. Consequence of an extensive medieval mining (silver, lead and copper) activities with impact of a recent history (uranium mining) are responsible for today's conditions.
- Religion and Vernacular architecture. Sacral buildings and architecture based on local needs and construction materials recorded the spirit of the time.
- Transition. The Socialistic era and The Velvet Revolution have caused the biggest changes in a rural space during last 70 years.

Czech cultural landscape was on the threshold of big changes in a beginning of the second half 20th century. The same situation repeats at the present time. These changes are mostly measured by comparative methods. However is it really the right activity? The varied results show how much an individual and a holistic approach is essential. The evaluation of the rural landscape has to be a synthesis including opinion of its residents. In that sense there is a last chance to record an origin mental image of the landscape.

Key words: landscape change, cultural landscape, post-industrial, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem micro-region

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Regional developmental problems of the rural settlements in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nurković Rahman, Mirić Ranko⁴⁷

The paper considers developmental problems of the rural settlements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are result of long-term disparity in the regional development. The latest indicators of socio-economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been discussed more closely, as well as general movement and age structure of its population as the major limiting factor of development of that area loaded with most of problems.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, rural settlements are the areas that appeared, first of all, as a result of falling behind the national average in development, which then appears as a thrust factor of emigration of population. Selective emigration, regarding the age and education structure, is reflected in weakening of the biodynamics and working potential of population, which causes further deepening and even more extends the spiral of developmental backwardness of the emigration areas. In set of causes of the occurrence of developmental problems of the rural settlements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the war in ex country had a significant role. Within discussions of the specified topics, fundamental indicators of polarisation development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its influence on extension and deepening the depopulation will be presented, predominantly in the rural and less developed areas of the state territory that were, at the same time, most affected by war. Socio-political changes have not brought major changes in regional development of the agricultural production yet, particularly in private sector.

Key words: regional development, problems, settlements, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Community initiatives for rural development in Latvia

Paula Līga⁴⁸

Involvement of rural communities in local development processes is emphasized in the endogenous and neo-endogenous approaches to rural development, therefore current rural development policies in both Europe and Latvia tend to promote greater activity of local actors. Current adverse socio-economic and demographic tendencies in rural areas require complex solutions and greater coordination between ministries, municipalities and non-governmental sector in defining policies and activities related to rural development; however, more detailed analysis of the rural development policy statements leads to some doubts whether policy makers treat rural development in its broader sense instead of focusing mainly on traditional rural activities (agriculture, forestry, fishery, natural resource management)? It seems that diversified economy, social inclusion and reduction of poverty, improved road infrastructure, and developed social, educational, and medical services in rural areas are still the matter of political rhetoric. There is no strategic document or plan which would purposefully focus on rural problems in a systemic way except support to already mentioned traditional rural economic activities. In practice typical rural municipalities struggle for surviving without serious state support and its appropriate vision on how rural areas should be developed in a future.

Nevertheless, rural communities come up with the initiatives trying to respond to their local needs. Thus the aim of the study was to analyse cultural, social, economic and political capabilities of rural communities and their involvement in rural development. The case study approach was chosen for the research and empirical data were obtained in three rural municipalities representing three Latvia's regions: Riebiņi municipality (Latgale region), Rundāle municipality (Zemgale region), and Strenči municipality (Vidzeme region). Document analysis and semi-structured interviews with the municipality representatives and community members were used in order to obtain the data. The author of the research proposed following assumptions: (1) rural communities as a resource for rural development is not fully used yet and their involvement is rather formal, (2) rural communities mainly realize their cultural and social capabilities, responding to the socio-economic problems which are not properly solved by the municipal or state institutions, (3) the most active socio-demographic groups in rural communities are women and youth.

The data shows that the first assumption is approved partially. Municipalities use their formal instruments (e.g., public discussions, internet forums on municipal home page, informational and financial support) for involvement of local people and interest groups, but they sometimes are not actively used by local people for some reasons. Municipalities have also established informal practices of information and experience exchange to get feedback from local community. In relation to the second assumption, it is approved by the analysis of community initiatives. Indeed, they are mainly focused on social, educational and cultural activities even though there are few attempts to establish entrepreneurial initiatives. Community's capability is very much affected by both internal and external factors, for example, migration and population mobility, availability of financial and human resources. In most of the cases rural community initiatives are supported by the policy instruments provided by the EU funds and small grants of local municipalities. The third assumption about most active community groups is approved: women and youth are more involved in community activities, also seniors are active. In some cases ethnicity plays important role if ethnic groups form smaller closed communities and therefore does not involve so actively in processes of wider community (local municipality).

Key words: rural development, local community, capability.

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Case study: tourism in Lednice-Valtice area as an alternative of development for the countryside

*Stonawská Kateřina*⁴⁹

Lednice-Valtice area (LVA) is situated in the southernmost part of the tourist region of South Moravia and it is the second most visited areas in the region of South Moravia, after the city Brno. This tourist destination is unique conservation area. Thanks to its rich natural and cultural-historical monuments it has been listed in 1996 as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Paper is based on the study of strategic development documents, but mostly is based on personal investigative work. Data was obtained by questionnaires and interviews with the providers of accommodation and food services and staffs of touristic information centers. We contacted all providers of accommodation and catering facilities by questionnaire and we spoke with all staffs of touristic information centers in area. The data were carefully analyzed and based on them was prepared case study.

The micro-region LVA covers the southern and south-eastern parts of the Břeclav District and consists of the area of the city Břeclav, Podivín, Valtice, Velké Bílovice and six municipalities: Bulhary, Ladná, Lednice, Hlohovec, Přítluky, Rakvice. The area of the region LVA is 283.09 km², which represents 24 % of the territory of the Břeclav District.

The River Dyje flows through the territory and forms a distinct alluvial plain with preserved riparian forests. Typical altitude of area is between 170 and 250 meters above sea level, but on some hills also reaches over 400 meters above sea level. There are about 96 % of registered vineyards in the Czech Republic.

The area is lying in the warm climate, in one of the warmest regions of South Moravia. Long-term average annual temperature is 9°C, the average rainfall is 519 mm.

Region intersects D2 highway which is connecting Brno to the state border. There are mainly roads of II. and III. class. The road networks linking I/52, I/40 and I/55 has an international importance, because it secures the connection to Poland, Austria and Slovakia. The railroad tracks diverge to the Czech Republic, Vienna, Warsaw or Bratislava. The region is interwoven with a large number of bike paths and there is also the cycling path Brno-Vienna.

The highest amenities are logically in Břeclav, which is the largest city in the region and it is also a district city. There are represented all categories of equipment ranging from theater, swimming pool and horse riding. Good amenities also provides Lednice, where are the most options of accommodation. The big advantage is the proximity of the municipalities - incoming visitors are allowed to use a various sorts of public facilities.

The number of accommodation facilities increased significantly between 2010 and 2011, mainly in the category Pension, other categories experienced not a major growth even decline. The most striking representation of the possibility of accommodation is in category Pension, Hotel *** and Hostel. The domestic visitors are most frequently accommodated in Pensions and camps. Vice versa, hotels are more used by foreign visitors. Visitors usually stay for a few nights.

The main reason for visiting the micro-region LVA is a recreational hiking and sightseeing. Currently, we recorded a significant increase in demand for specialized wine tourism, where this micro-region has huge potential. Visitors to this area mainly prefer exploring the landscape and attractions. They focus on the active form of leisure. These forms mainly include hiking, cycling and other sports. There is a lack of a large hotel type that could support congress and individual tourism in this area.

Tourist LVA region is an area with great tourist potential. The mere geographical location, on the border with Austria and just far from Slovakia, gives this region certain competitive advantage. In addition, local wines are the best in the country and they often receive prestigious awards at the National Wine Salon, which is based in Valtice castle.

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LVA offers an extensive network of biking, hiking and wine routes, and since 2007 have been launched also Spa Lednice. The spa has a beneficial effect on the musculoskeletal and cardiovascular systems, neurological diseases, but also to gynecological problems and conditions from burns.

The investigated area is not clearly rural areas, but due to the low population density and orientation of agricultural production, we can say, that the region has the character of the countryside. We can summarize that the influx of tourists and relatively functioning tourism causes, that the area is in a developed condition than the surrounding districts.

Key words: Lednice-Valtice area, Spa Lednice, cycling paths, wine tourism, cultural landscape, UNESCO

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Landscape memory as an example of the rural heritage of the agricultural landscape – Podluží region

Miloslava Ševelová⁵⁰

Cultural landscape in the Czech Republic is very diverse and interconnected. Number of factors reflects in landscape, as well as in different types of landscapes. There are visible results of a deliberate, targeted organization and deliberate cultivation. The landscape is characterized by two key properties: variability and uniqueness. Cultural Landscape represents intensively and persistently cultivated area. The agricultural landscape is one of the types of cultural landscapes. It presents a mosaic of arable land, vineyards, orchards, meadows, pastures, forests, fallows and settlements. Agricultural activity has fundamental influence on the change of landscape mosaics. Agriculture is still the main activity that affects the landscape and biodiversity of the landscape in most European countries. The cultural landscape is very closely related to the concept of landscape memory, so called "natural memory". This is not an abstract concept, but it marks historic landscape cultivation. These prints can be found in the landscape, for example in the form of technical landscaping and landscape structure changes with regard to landscape management, but also in the presence of historic buildings. They provide us information about the landscape where we find and its development. Memory landscape reminds us historical and cultural context, setting it in a wider context.

The project Landscape memory as a rural heritage – the changes of Czech cultural landscape in the mental reflection of its inhabitants focuses on the documentation of a disappearing cultural richness recorded in individual memory of people in relation to the cultural landscape and its development. The aim of the project is to identify, analyze and permanently document the changes in the Czech cultural landscape in the mental image of their inhabitants. In the first phase of the project six model regions "landscapes" were selected. The study area in region Podluží is a model the cultural territory of agricultural land in South Moravian County. The area of the region is 22,016 hectares and it is located mainly in Dolnomoravský ravine and lower parts of the north Dyjskomoravské upland on the bottom of the Thaya River and Kyjovka basins, adjacent to the Slovak Republic and Austria. The region consists of 14 municipalities. Region has a character of a plane. The area is one of the warmest and most fertile areas in the Czech Republic. Land uses of the region are alluvial forest, meadows and pastures, orchards, vineyards and arable land. The winery has a long tradition in the region. The current acreage of vineyards in the villages of the region is 969 ha. According to the type of use the region predominantly consists of agricultural landscape, forest-agricultural landscape and forest. In the southern tip of the triangle region in the confluence of the Thaya and Morava remained the original character of the floodplain forest, which is protected in three reservations - Cahnov, Ranšpurk and Soutok. Convenient location, the long tenure of the Liechtenstein family and hunting and countryside - aesthetic grounds contributed to the preservation. The entire area is a part of the Lower Morava Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO). This is an area intensively used mainly for agricultural mass production. Arable land is about 83% of the territory in the region. The appearance of the landscape is influenced and shaped by the viticulture and winemaking in a unique way. The current appearance of the landscape and settlements began to form in the early Middle Ages, as confirmed by written records of 12th -13th century, when most existing villages in this area were founded. Street or road type of villages is typical for the region. Most municipalities still maintain its peasant character, with noticeable original core.

Currently, the region has a total population of 25,247 and a population density of 115 inhabitants per km². The largest city is Lanžhot, which has 3,766 inhabitants. The population density per built-up area reaches 59.7 persons per hectare. The region is populated incrementally. Businesses with no employees and micro enterprises are predominant. Unemployment in the region is constantly increasing (in 2011, unemployment was about 16%). Only 4.5% of the population works in the primary sector.

The project seeks to capture vanishing testimony on the form of the cultural landscape in the first half of the last century and their subsequent transformations and keep it in a permanent way for the next generation. The outcome of the project will be the Modern chronicle of the village Josefov that synthesizes acquired knowledge, archive video and audio documents and other information.

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Keywords: landscape memory, Podluží region, agricultural landscape, cultural landscape, land use, South Moravian Region

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Tourism in the Moravian Karst

Pavλίna Thonnová⁵¹

The area of Moravian karst is situated in south part of "Drahanská upland". It is bordered by cities of Brno, Blansko, Boskovice and Vyškov. More than 20,000 people live within the area. The area comprises 26 municipalities in micro region Moravian Karst (Březina, Bukovina, Bukovinka, Habrůvka, Hostěnice, Jedovnice, Kotvrdovice, Krasová, Křtiny, Kulířov, Kuničky, Lipovec, Němčice, Ostrov u Macochy, Rájec-Jestřebí, Rudice, Senetářov, Sloup, Šošůvka, Vavřinec, Vilémovice, Vysočany, Žďár, Holštejn, Olomučany, Spešov). Most of them belong into district of Blansko.

The Moravian Karst together with its surroundings is a region with many natural features (Protected Landscape Area Moravian Karst, European important localities of Natura 2000 system, Ramsar Wetland "Hypogean Punkva"). Unique nature and countryside go hand in hand with many historic and cultural sights of various architectural styles. The area of The Moravian Karst and its wider surrounding has a remarkable importance for knowledge of prehistorical development of our civilisation in Central European area. This area on the fringe of Central European lowland has been inhabited and used by a people for more than one hundred thousand years.

The micro region Moravian Karst belongs to the most important karst areas in the Czech Republic, notable for its longest history of speleological, architectonical and paleontological karst research in Europe. It is a territory much studied by scientists from many fields, but tourism in the area is also of great significance. The highlights include healthy and clean environment, high concentration of nature protected areas, museums and historic landmarks (castles, ruins of castles, sacred buildings, windmills, Celtic oppida and arboretums). The Baroque church by the architect and builder Santini in Křtiny is a great work of period architecture.

The Moravian Karst was declared a Protected Landscape Area in 1956, the second in the Czech Republic, to protect its unique nature and exceptional cultural and historical monuments. The PLA has an area of 92 km² and includes a large number of sites with the strictest protection. To visit underground of the Moravian Karst has been a tradition for several centuries. First documents about such visit are dated from the 16th century. Favoured were the caves "Sloupské caves", "Býčí rock" and "Výpustek". People were seeking for the "fossilized bones of dragons", believing in their remedial effects. Local people knew caves very well and they quickly found out that caves could be economically profitable. They had mined stalactite and cave-bear's teeth, which they then sold to rich pilgrims. The "Amatérská cave" complex is to be found here, stretching for almost 35 km when contiguous caves are included, making it one of the largest cave systems in Europe. The caves are also the main tourism attraction. Cave fauna is remarkable. The most famous are bats, of which 21 species have been discovered till now. The following caves are open to the public: Punkevní, Kateřinská, Balcarka and Sloupsko-šošůvské. About 400,000 people visit them every year.

Also today the tourism represents one of the main development potential of The Moravian Karst. This area is not only a place with unique caves but also a place with wide offer of activities and interesting places, where visitors can choose, never get bored and will leave saturated with experiences. Moreover, the accessibility of the region is very good, being situated close to big cities (Brno, Olomouc, Prostějov). There are opportunities for development of suburban short-term recreation or congress tourism, too. There is also potential for development of agro tourism and hippo tourism and various environmental education programs. Local product branding scheme "The Moravian Karst – regional product®" started up in 2007. This brand means that products pass through strict certification process, which guarantees their origin in the wider Moravian Karst. Local origin is not the only condition for a product to be branded. Branded products have to contribute to the good name of the region and be of a high quality, environmentally friendly, unique in relation to The Moravian Karst – i.e. made by traditional technology, handmade or made from local materials, unique by its high quality.

Key words: micro region, caves, karst area, visitor

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Tourism potential of the Vranovsko micro-region

Vasylchenko Alona, Šťastná Milada, Vaishar Antonín

Vranovsko micro-region is located in the southwestern part of the South Moravian Region. Association for the Development and Reconstruction of Vranovsko's villages is formed by 21 villages (Bítov, Chvalatice, Korolupy, Lančov, Lesná, Lubnice, Onšov, Oslonovice, Podhradí nad Dyjí, Podmyče, Stálky, Starý Petřín, Šafov, Štítary, Šumná, Uherčice, Vranov nad Dyjí, Vratěšín, Vysočany, Zálesí a Zblovce). The subject of its activities is "protection of common interests and all activities which will lead to economic, cultural and social development of the micro-region". The tourism development and usage of natural potential of the villages nearby the Dam Vranov are the main goals of local activity"

The region is characterized by its forests alternating with agricultural landscape, which consists of fields and ponds. The coefficient of ecological stability by Míchal is 1.22, so it is quite high.

Vranovsko has possibilities for various tourism activities. National park Podyjí is situated there. Also the Dam Vranov is a famous recreation area, which provides opportunities for water sports, fishing and swimming.

National park Podyjí is the unique natural object, which almost wasn't influenced by people. This park is example of exceptionally well-preserved river valley in richly wooded countryside of Moravia's southwest. The area of the national park is 6283 ha and the area of the protection zone is 2841 ha. We can include Podyjí to the most notable area in the central Europe, because of its unique flora and vegetation. This is due to phytogeographic location of the area, micro- and meso-climatic conditions, geomorphological and geological conditions. National park is exceptional because of its extraordinary diversity of plants and animals on the rather small area. The national park provides visitors the opportunity to travel either on foot or by bicycle. There are 80 km of marked hiking trails and 200 km of cycle paths located. Walking path is recommended to start from Vranov nad Dyjí, Znojmo or Čížov, where Visitor center Administration of the National Park Podyjí is situated. Vranov also attracts lovers of history thanks to its cultural monuments (the Castle in Vranov nad Dyjí, the Bítov castle, Zbýl 2, State castle Uherčice and the ruins of Cornštejn). Since 2006 transport ship has been shipping according to its schedule on the Dam Vranov. It has five stop stations (Hraz, Lančov, Camp Bítov, Hrad Bítov a Chmelnice).

But during our research several serious problems of Vranovsko's development as a tourism region were detected. The park administration has banned water tourism on the river Dyje and organizing collective tourism events. So Znojmo town (the administrative center of the Znojmo District, where Vranovsko micro-region is located) has the long-term goal to cooperate with Administration of the National Park Podyjí for permission of sparing activities. Such way it is possible to maximize experience of visitors and to minimize negative impacts of tourism on this region.

Key words: Vranovsko micro-region , national park, tourism activities, the Dam Vranov, water tourism.

Rural community broadband initiatives – getting rural areas connected

Wallace Claire, Vincent Katie⁵²

Broadband is increasingly important for creating sustainable rural communities enabling local businesses to set up, people to work from home and cultural and community institutions to flourish. However, rural areas have low priority in private and public initiatives for providing broadband, meaning that they fall further and further behind urban centres. Some rural communities have taken matters into their own hands by setting up their own broadband communications using government, EU and charitable grants as well as their own labour. This paper looks at how rural communities have undertaken these initiatives and compares different initiatives in different parts of rural UK.

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Landscape aspect in setting cycling route based on selected cycle paths in the Barycz Valley region

Walter Ewa⁵³

Movement provoke to fully explore the characteristic of the landscape. A multitude of plans, curtain, unveiling and veiling objects, harmonious or disharmonious elements are a strong stimulus to the senses and can cause different emotions. Cycling route user usually don't think about the details of the landscape, relationships between their elements and designing system. During navigate the open space process of writing feelings associated with landscape is followed. The cyclist evaluates and is likely to further explore the area if the feelings are positive. It is different with the parking points, they are a "stop" in the landscape and its more detailed evaluation. That's why it is so important to be designated in the appropriate places routes taking into account the aspect of the landscape.

Poster shows the results of analyzes of selected bike routes in the Barycz Valley region. The author outlines her research thesis that in the creating of bicycle routes it is necessary to take into account the landscape aspect on each of path sections, which also can be a way of making knowledge about the regional characteristic of the landscape.

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Impact of the Last Activities on the Today Land Use

Ždímal Václav⁵⁴

Landscape is heritage transferring to the next generation. Landscape changes as well as its natural and cultural parts. Landscape is palimpsest with whole history. Present land use must respect landscape history. Projected usage could be problematic otherwise. Move of the streams, mining places without restoration and other activities affect today land use. A lot of historic maps and data of remote sensing can be used. These materials can be used for land use modelling and for hydrological analyses with help of geographic information system.

Czech landscape belongs to old development areas settled by a man from old ages and Lipský [1999] and Kubeš [1996] describe detailed origin and development of cultural landscape in the Czech Republic. A single location may show evidence of human activity from the different periods and natural changes. The Land Cover of one location could change several times. The most important reason is meandering and following straightening of rivers, deforestation and soil movement. In the past those changes influenced today's management and it is important to identify them.

One of the tools used to determine the different places is remote sensing in the near-infrared and visible bands monitoring the vegetation changes. Spectral characteristic of plants are the main consequences of the different land use. The spectral behaviour of vegetation showed a significant increase in reflectance in the near infrared spectrum. It is commonly stated that in the visible spectrum about 20% of incident radiation is reflected by vegetation, while in the near infrared spectrum about 60% is reflected. These changes show the vegetation places with different histories of others. After identifying the different sites it can be found in archival materials, what was the Land Cover in the past.

The project was solved on the land of University Agriculture Enterprise (UAE) (Mendel University in Brno), placed in Žabčice 90 km from Vienna (Czech Republic, 48°59'11" N 16°37'40" E, 175 m above sea-level). UAE is working mainly in the maize area. Field production is focused on the production of cereals and fodder crops and livestock production is focused on beef and pig-rising. Additional activities are focused first of all on the practical aspects of the student education. UAE Žabčice controls 1,602 ha of the farmland (1,353 ha of the arable land).

Aerial photos in the near-infrared and visible bands were used for visual interpretation of characters that identify the previous Land Cover. Visual identification was performed with digital images on the screen. Lines and distinctive shapes which differ from the surrounding area indicating different usage were identified.

Identified differences were compared with historical source materials. The historical source materials are in this situation maps from the 2nd military mapping from the years 1836 - 1852 and aerial photographs from the years 1953, 1968, 1976, 1984 and 1991. Examples of observed changes are changes in the riverbed and humidity conditions. Investigated area is agricultural experimental field of Mendel University in Brno and in the past river Šatava created meanders. The river was straightened later and agricultural cultivated area increased. Soils in the original river bed and the waterlogged area have different physical and chemical properties. Remote sensing in the near-infrared and visible bands shows the historic riverbed and waterlogged areas. But the places of the last riverbeds are different from the locations identify with the historic maps.

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